THURSDAY
January 1, 2026

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FORCED CONVERSION CASE

Keralite priest, 7 others get bail in Maharashtra

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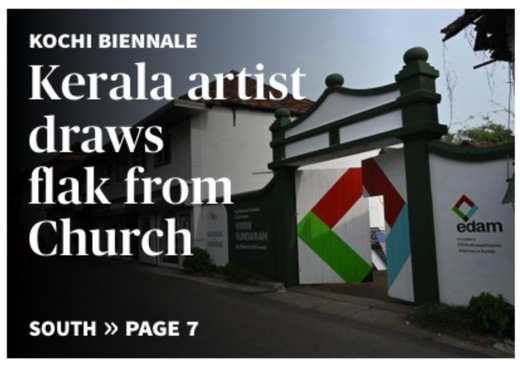

KOCHI BIENNALE

Kerala artist draws flak from Church

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'SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS'

Centre restricts use of nimesulide drug

NEWS » PAGE 12

Vodafone-Idea gets relief on AGR dues

Centre freezes payments amounting to ₹87,695 crore, reschedules them to be paid over 2031-32 to 2040-41; no change in dues for 2017-19

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, at its meeting on Wednesday, approved the freezing of Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL)'s adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, amounting to ₹87,695 crore, for a period of five years.

The relief, however, may be partial as a note from the government stressed, "AGR dues pertaining to FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 [that were already finalised vide a 2020 Supreme Court order] shall be payable by M/s VIL over the period FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31 without any change."

Based on Supreme Court orders allowing the government to grant such relaxations, VIL had made a representation in recent weeks. After considering the request, the Union government decided to freeze the dues, and reschedule them "over FY 2031-32 to FY 2040-41", the note said.

The note said that the telecom sector was "highly concentrated", and that the government "would like to have multiple players in such critical sectors". The Union government has a 49% equity stake in VIL, as a result of a previous relief intervention for the struggling firm. The move will protect the interest of 20 crore VIL consumers, the note said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Breathing space

The Union government has a 49% equity stake in VIL, from a previous relief intervention for the struggling firm

Helping hand: The move will protect the interest of 20 crore consumers, says govt. FILE PHOTO

- Dues for 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscals, finalised based on a Supreme Court order, will now have to be paid over 2025-26 to 2030-31 fiscal **without any change**
- **DoT to reassess** the frozen dues as per Deduction Verification Guidelines

People hold a portrait of former PM Khaleda Zia, as they gather to offer funeral prayers for her in Dhaka on Wednesday. REUTERS

Zia's passing leaves huge void, says PM

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The passing of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia leaves an "irreplaceable void" but her "vision and legacy" will continue to nurture India-Bangladesh relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a letter that was handed over by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)'s Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on Wednesday. This is the first visit by Mr. Jaishankar to Dhaka since the interim government took charge in August 2024. Touhid Hossein, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the government, was among those who met Mr. Jaishankar.

Three-time former Prime Minister Begum Zia died at the age of 80 on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. She was buried at the Jatiya Sansad in Dhaka.

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NEARBY

ARC favours OTS to recover dues from beneficiaries

BENGALURU
In the light of poor recovery of loans extended between 2013 and 2018 by the Minorities Development Corporation, the Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended announcing 'One-Time Settlement' to recover dues of over ₹700 crore. » PAGE 6

Welcoming 2026

Joyous beginning: Youngsters thronged Brigade Road in Bengaluru to welcome the New Year on Wednesday night. SUDHAKARA JAIN (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

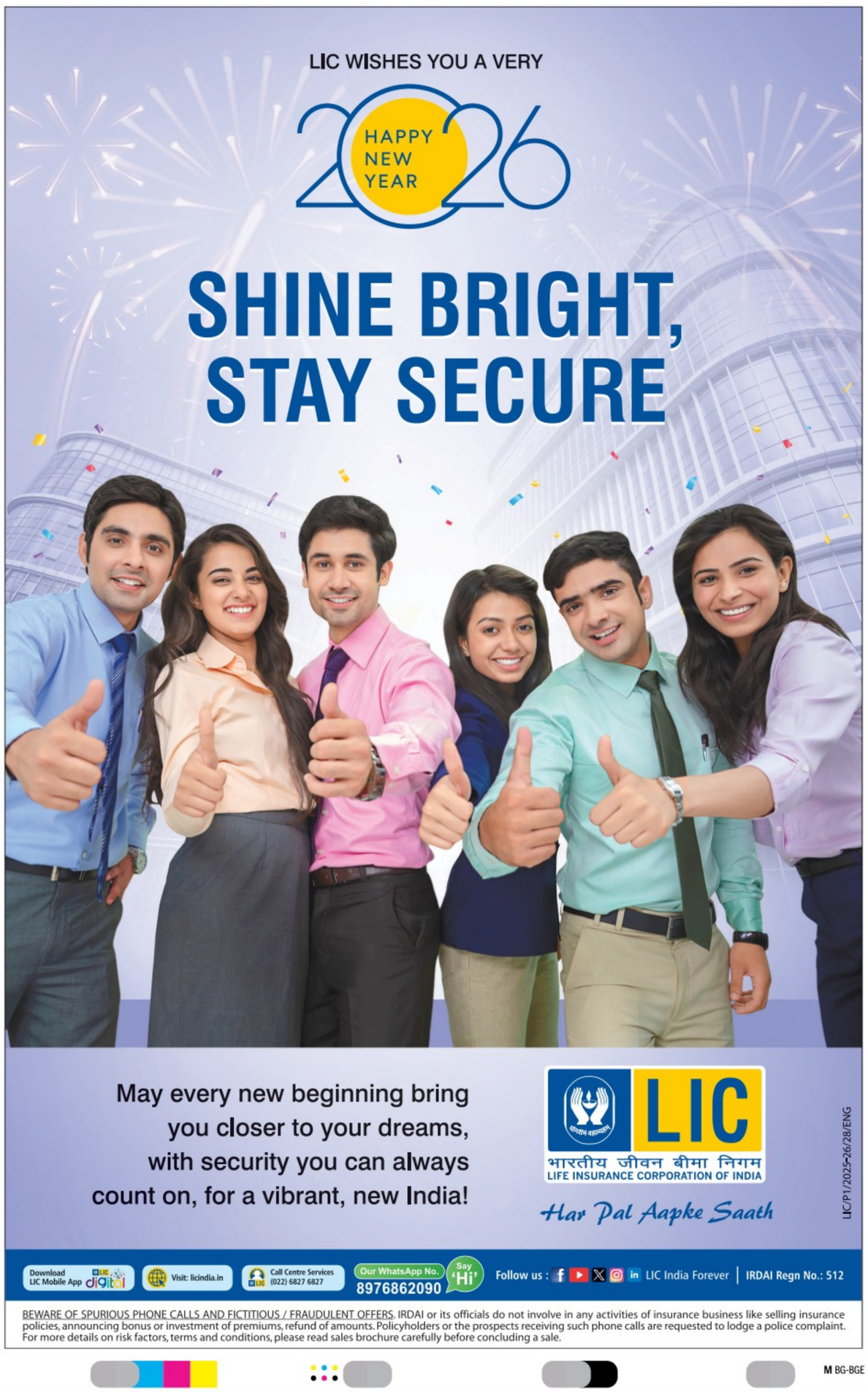
Two arrested with 150 kg of explosives in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Police on Wednesday seized 150 kg of ammonium nitrate, used in industrial explosives, along with 200 car tridges and six bundles of safety fuse wire from a car and arrested two persons in Tonk district.

The massive haul by the District Special Team on New Year's eve may have thwarted a terror conspiracy and averted a disaster. Investigation was in progress to ascertain the source, destination, and intended use of the seized explosive material.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10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Death toll from 'unsafe' water reaches 10 in Indore

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

An official was dismissed from service and two were suspended even as the death toll climbed to 10 in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh where more than 2,000 people have fallen ill after consuming contaminated water supplied by the municipal corporation, officials said on Wednesday.

A three-member committee has also been formed to investigate the incident.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Fresh videos of unlawful activities in Kalaburagi central prison surface

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The videos show inmates engaging in gambling, consuming alcohol and smoking cigarettes inside the jail premises.

The Central Prison in Kalaburagi has once again come under scrutiny after fresh videos surfaced on social media showing inmates engaging in gambling, consuming alcohol and smoking cigarettes inside the jail premises.

Over the past few months, several videos have been in circulation online showing inmates enjoying special privileges and leading a high-profile lifestyle inside the prison raising concern about prison administration.

On Tuesday, another video went viral in which main accused in the police recruitment scam R.D. Patil is making corruption allegations against the jail authorities.

A day later, on Wednesday morning, additional videos began circulating showing inmates involved in gambling and consuming alcohol within the prison. Meanwhile, questions are being raised about the response of the prison authorities and their failure to act despite such repeated incidents.

However, officials have not issued any statement so far.

Smriti's record-breaking year to remember

In 2025, the vice-captain of the Indian women's team raised her game to a different level and accomplished various feats, notably becoming the fastest woman to the mark of 10,000 runs in international cricket in addition to playing an integral role in India's victorious ODI World Cup campaign at home

FILE PHOTOS: K.R. DEEPAK, K. MURALI KUMAR

Vivek Krishnan

With a gentle drive along the ground to long-on off Sri Lankan left-arm spinner Nimasha Meepage in the fourth T20I in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Smriti Mandhana entered a distinguished club. She became only the fourth player, and the second Indian, to reach 10,000 runs in women's internationals – a list comprising India's Mithali Raj (10,868 runs), New Zealand's Suzie Bates (10,652) and England's Charlotte Edwards (10,273).

While Mithali and Edwards have retired and Bates, 38, has reached the twilight of her journey, Smriti appears to be at just about the halfway stage of an exemplary career. She has hurtled to the mark in record time: 280 innings, quicker than Mithali (291), Edwards (308) and Bates (314). It is a resounding measure of Smriti's ever-growing status as one of the greatest batters to have graced the women's game.

In 2025, in particular, Smriti was an indomitable force. During the course of India's triumphant World Cup campaign, where she had the distinction of being the tournament's second-highest run-getter, she became the first woman to breach the 1,000-run mark in ODIs in a calendar year.

She went on to end the year with a tally of 1,362 runs in 23 matches at an average of 61.9. Her strike-rate –109.92 – was better than ever before. She also racked up five hundreds in the format during the year. One of these, against Australia in Delhi just prior to the World Cup, came off merely 50 deliveries as India came ever so close to chasing down 413. It was the second-fastest hundred in the history of women's ODIs, behind Meg Lanning's 45-ball blitzkrieg against New Zealand in 2012, and the fastest by an Indian – man or woman.

In the T20I scheme of things, too, Smriti's stature has risen. In June, she plundered the English attack for a 62-ball 112 in Nottingham, becoming the first Indian woman to hit centuries in all three formats.

Against the Sri Lankans on Sunday, Smriti's knock of 80 provided the foundation for India's total of 221 for two in 20 overs. After exercising a bit of restraint in comparison to the dynamic Shafali Verma early on in an opening partnership of 162, a record for the Women in Blue for any wicket, the vice-captain duly accelerated in the middle phase to power her team to its highest-ever total in T20Is.

Following lean scores of 25, 14 and 1 for the ace batter from Maharashtra in the first three games of the T20I series, this was Smriti back in familiar territory.

"After playing a lot of ODI cricket this year, it was tough to get into T20 cricket. It was mentally a little different. Happy that I contributed better today," Smriti reflected at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Elegance personified

It is worth emphasising in Smriti's case that the quality of the run-making tends to be just as impressive as the quantity. As apparent from her ability to caress silken drives through the off-side, she is blessed with all the quintessential traits of a languid left-hand batter.

After Sunday's T20I, Sri Lanka coach Rumesh Ratnayake even drew parallels between Smriti and former England captain David Gower, who enthralled audiences in the 1980s with the regal grace of his strokeplay.

However, Smriti hasn't relied on just her natural attributes to navigate the cut-throat cauldron of international cricket. Her precocious talent was a given once she made her debut for India in 2013 as a 16-year-old, but if she is continuing to push the boundaries of excellence more than a decade later, it is fundamentally because of her indefatigable desire to fine-tune her game.

"It's never the case that I've done it before. You've to start on zero in every game. What you have done in the last match or previous series isn't important,"Smriti told *bcci.tv* after scaling 10,000 runs on Sunday. "Internal expectations are different in every format. In T20s, you can't be extremely hard on yourself after getting out. You're playing at a pace where it will come off on some days and won't on some other days. I'm really tough on myself in ODIs and Tests. If I get out, it feels like a sin for me."

On-side game

According to W.V. Raman, who was head coach of the Indian women's team from 2018 to 2021, Smriti has developed her on-side range in recent times. It has made her a lot harder to contain, and perhaps acted as the catalyst for the prolific year she has just had.

"She has expanded on her repertoire of shot-making and that's the reason she has churned out runs in such a consistent manner," Raman told *The Hindu*.

"She was making a lot of people feel that she was capable of doing more about two, three seasons ago. And in the last couple of years, she's obviously stepped up and the consistency with which she has got runs has been remarkable.

"She has worked out the shots to play on the on-side between the arc of square leg to long-on. That was one area that she was perhaps not really as good as she is now. She was definitely very fluent through the off-side always and she could always play behind square on the onside. But that particular area between front of square and long-on, she has started playing a lot more shots now," the former Indian opener elaborated.

Among the strokes she has particularly worked on, said Smriti's personal coach Anant Tambavekar, is the slog sweep against spin. "She used to play the sweep earlier too, but now she is a lot more clinical with that stroke. In general, she carries greater confidence now that she can clear the boundary at any stage of the innings," Tambavekar noted.

Fitter and stronger

The confidence has also stemmed from the rigorous training routine that Smriti has put herself through to become a fitter and stronger athlete. Over the past year or so, her willingness to go the extra mile has resulted in her teaming up with Srikanth Varma Madapalli, a Hyderabad-based strength and conditioning coach who was notably badminton star P.V. Sindhu's personal trainer in the past.

"She always had the ability to play big shots. The difference now is that she is able to sustain her big hitting for a longer duration, because she's become stronger by way of improving her fitness. That's a better way of putting it," said Raman.

As Smriti heads into 2026, on the back of a hugely fulfilling 12 months on the field, can the star opener continue to push the envelope?

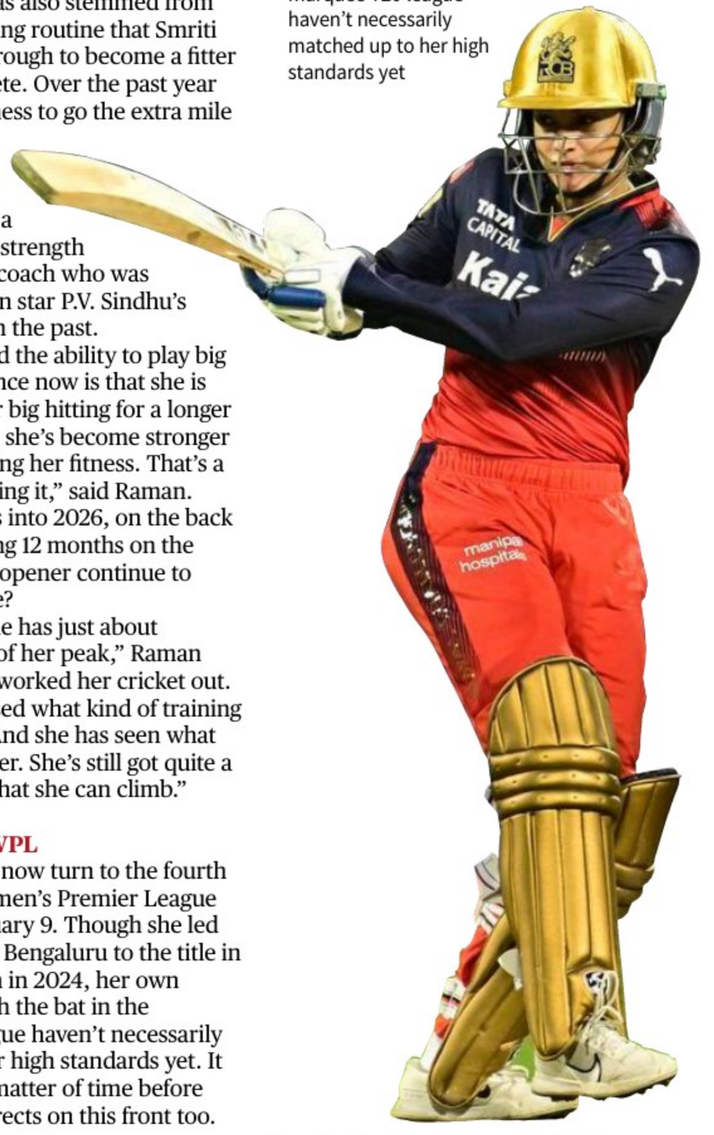
"In my view, she has just about reached the base of her peak," Raman opined. "She has worked her cricket out. She has also realised what kind of training she needs to do. And she has seen what that has fetched her. She's still got quite a lot of mountains that she can climb."

Focus shifts to WPL

Smriti's focus will now turn to the fourth edition of the Women's Premier League beginning on January 9. Though she led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the title in the second season in 2024, her own performances with the bat in the marquee T20 league haven't necessarily matched up to her high standards yet. It should only be a matter of time before Smriti course-corrects on this front too.

THE GIST

- While Mithali and Edwards have retired and Bates, 38, has reached the twilight of her journey, Smriti appears to be at just about the halfway stage of an exemplary career
- Among the strokes she has particularly worked on, said Smriti's personal coach Anant Tambavekar, is the slog sweep against spin
- Though she led RCB to the title in the second season in 2024, Smriti's performances with the bat in the marquee T20 league haven't necessarily matched up to her high standards yet



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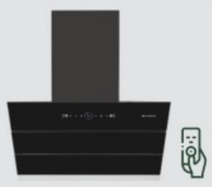

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Bengaluru rings in 2026 with a night full of revelry

CBD, Indiranagar, and Koramangala, bathed in a cascade of dazzling lights, saw throngs of revellers cheering with joy, and dancing in the streets to welcome 2026; interestingly, M.G. Road saw a lower turnout compared to previous years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In high spirits: A sea of revellers thronging Koramangala, cheering with joy as they welcomed the New Year 2026. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

People celebrating New Year 2026 at Brigade Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday night. SUDHAKARA JAIN

High streets were beehives of revellers, cheers echoed, and music rocked as Bengaluru welcomed the New Year amid city-wide celebrations.

The Central Business District (CBD), Indiranagar, and Koramangala, bathed in a cascade of dazzling lights, saw throngs of revellers cheering with joy, chanting slogans, and dancing in the streets to welcome 2026. However, the celebrations were tightly regulated as the police enforced all pre-planned restrictions without compromise.

Use of heat maps

This year, Kalyan Nagar in east Bengaluru and Electronics City in southeast Bengaluru also saw people taking to the streets. The police used heat maps and deployed additional personnel at high-footfall locations. The use of loud horns was curbed completely this year, with vendors barred from selling them. Revellers in the CBD and Koramangala raised slogans, including RCB chants, and sang songs.

Interestingly, M.G. Road saw a lower turnout compared to previous years, while Koramangala saw excessive crowds, with people arriving as early as 7 p.m., resulting in the complete blockage of 60 Feet Road and Ganapathi Temple Road. Police quickly barricaded several entry points in Koramangala to ensure safety. In contrast, CBD roads were kept open longer, unlike last year.

> I wanted to experience the atmosphere at M.G. Road. It is all about large gatherings and loud cheering, apart from enjoying pubs
>
> **ASHWIN**
> Reveller at Church Street

Ashwin, a reveller at Church Street, told *The Hindu* that he had come to the CBD to experience the New Year frenzy associated with M.G. Road. "The M.G. Road is deemed a party hotspot, and I wanted to experience the atmosphere. It is all about large gatherings and loud shouting, apart from enjoying pubs," he said.

In contrast to street celebrations, many residents chose quieter ways to welcome 2026. In Yelahanka, apartment residents organised late-night short cricket and badminton tournaments.

Suraj Simha, a resident of Yelahanka 4th Phase, said neighbourhood friends organised box cricket matches within their apartment complex. "We formed multiple teams, and even elderly residents participated, bringing people of all age groups together," he said.

Krithi Iyer, a resident of Ejipura, attended a coffee session at a popular Jayanagar cafe where Kannada book readers discussed their favourite authors.

S. Kausik, a resident of Suddaguntepalya, said his group booked an apartment for a private celebration. "Instead of going out, eight of us booked a three-bedroom house, cooked together, watched movies, listened to music, and celebrated through the night," he said.

Extensive security

A key highlight of this year's bandobast was the extensive deployment of civil defence personnel, who were stationed at all entry and exit points, indulging frisking. Mini police lights were provided to enhance visibility.

Barricading around M.G. Road was systematically planned to allow smooth vehicle movement. Unlike previous years, vehicles were allowed to move through the CBD late into the night. To prevent crowding, pubs in the CBD were restricted from playing loud music. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Akshay Hakay Machhindra was seen reprimanding pub owners and bouncers on Brigade Road for violations.

Similar arrangements were in place in Koramangala and Indiranagar. Strict enforcement of floor strength limits was implemented, with officials citing the recent Goa fire tragedy. Each pub in Koramangala had four to five police officers deployed nearby.

Pratham, a resto-bar owner in Koramangala, said they have had good business since Christmas and also on New Year's eve. Meanwhile, there were minor incidents involving preventive detentions and inquiries against a few troublemakers in both M.G. Road and Koramangala.

BIAL rolls out premium pick-up charge for corporate taxis at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under the new system, corporate taxis using the facility will be charged ₹275 for the first 10 minutes, with an additional ₹150 levied for every subsequent five minutes. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has rolled out a ₹275 pick-up charge for corporate taxis at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), introducing what officials describe as a "soft launch" of a premium pick-up facility at Terminal 1.

A BIAL official confirmed on Wednesday that the charge applies to the premium pick-up zone at the Terminal 1 departures level. Under the new system, corporate taxis using this facility will be charged ₹275 for the first 10 minutes, with an additional ₹150 levied for every subsequent five minutes. The designated pick-up point for this service is the fifth lane at the Terminal 1 departures area.

The introduction of the premium pick-up charge comes amid continuing changes to parking and pick-up regulations at the airport. Following criticism from cab drivers and passengers, the BIAL has already relaxed certain aspects of the new rules.

From December 26, 2025, the free parking duration for commercial vehicles at the Terminal 1 arrival area was extended from 10 minutes to 15 minutes.

Under the earlier pick-up regulations implemented on December 13, 2025, commercial vehicles were required to wait at designated P3 and P4 parking areas, where only 10 minutes of complimentary parking was allowed. With the revised arrangement, drivers now get 15 minutes of free waiting time. After this period, cab operators are charged ₹100 for the first 30 minutes and ₹50 for every additional hour.

The revised parking and pick-up rules had triggered strong opposition from sections of the cab driver community. On December 16, 2025, a large number of drivers staged a protest near the Sadahalli toll gate, demanding a complete rollback of the new regulations. The protesters argued that the rules increased operational costs and made passenger pick-ups more cumbersome.

Govt. announces promotion of IPS officers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government issued a notification on Wednesday announcing promotions and transfers of several IPS officers, effective from January 1, 2026.

M.B. Boralingaiah, previously Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Southern Range, Mysuru), has been promoted as Inspector-General (IG) of Police in the same role, while Ajay Hilori takes charge as IG, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crimes, Bengaluru). Proforma promotions to IG grade were accorded to Ram Niwas Sepat, Anupam Agrawal, and Rohini Katoch Sepat.

In the Deputy IG cadre, over 20 officers from the 2012 batch received promotions, including Bheemashankar S. Guled to Criminal Investigation Department (Economic Offences), Ilakkiya Karunagaran to Wireless Bengaluru, and C.B. Vedamurthy to State Intelligence.

Transfers included Mohammad Sujeetha M.S. (Hassan to DCP South East Bengaluru) and chain movements like G.K. Mithun Kumar (Shivamogga to DCP North-East).

Special metro feeder bus services for Chitra Santhe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To facilitate smooth and affordable travel for visitors attending Chitra Santhe, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will operate special metro-feeder bus services on January 4.

According to a press release, the special services will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the day of the fair, which attracts thousands of visitors to the city.

The buses will be available at a flat fare of ₹15, aimed at encouraging the use of public transport and reducing traffic congestion in and around the venue.

Key transit points

The special services will connect key transit points to Vidhana Soudha, close to the Chitra Santhe venue. Four buses will operate every 10 minutes from Kempegowda Bus Station to Vidhana Soudha via Central Talkies, Anandarao Circle, and Shivananda Stores. Similarly, four buses will run every 10 minutes from Mantri Mall Metro Station to Vidhana Soudha, passing through Anandarao Circle and Shivananda Stores.

Kannada activist dead

BENGALURU: P. Rajagopal, founder-general secretary of the Indian State Bank Kannada Associations' Coordination Committee and a pioneer of Kannada in banking, passed away at his Malleswaram residence, on Wednesday. He was 79.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are interested in purchasing the portion of schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owners, 1) Smt. MUNITAYAMMA, W/o. Late. Yallappa and her children 1.a) Smt. RATHNAMMA, 1.b) Sri. MUNIRAJA, 2) Smt. SAVITHRAMMA, W/o. Sri. Muniraja, and her son 2.a) Sri. KIRAN .M, 3) Smt. SUSHMA .N, D/o. Sri. Nagaraj .Y, 4) Baby TEJASWINI .K, being a minor rep. by her father and natural guardian, D/o. Sri. Kiran .M, 5) HAARIKA .K, being a minor rep. by her father and natural guardian, D/o. Sri. Kiran .M, 6) Sri. ANNAIAH .M, S/o. Sri. Muniraja .Y, 7) Ms. S. SWATHI, D/o. Sri. C. Shankarappa, S/o. Late. Yallappa, 8) Smt. SHANTHAMMA, W/o. Sri. Suresha, 8) Ms. NANDINI .S, D/o. Sri. Suresha, 9) Mis.BEBI, D/o. Sri. Suresha and Smt. MANJULA, D/o. Late. Yallappa, All the above owners 1 to 9 are residing at : No. 585, 1st Cross, Near Govt. School, Ramagondanahalli, Bangalore East, Bangalore-560066.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All peace and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 165/2 Land measuring to extent of 1 Acre 32 Guntas situated at Mugalur Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk and bounded on: East by : Ballappa's Land & Road, West by : Munishamappa's land in same Sy. No. 165/2, North by : Road, South by : Pallakai Munishamy's land.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 31-12-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase the schedule property mentioned herein below from the owner Dr. V. KRISHNA RAO. Any person or persons having any claims/objections for the said transaction in respect of the schedule property may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence **within 15 (FIFTEEN) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential immovable Property bearing **Site No.709,** PID No. 709/BDA, situated at 3rd Block Layout, 1st Stage, Hennur Bellary Road, Bengaluru , with a building thereon of Ground and First Floor RCC roofing, Mosaic flooring, brick wall with cement mortar, Jungle wood doors and windows with separate electricity, water, sanitary connection together with all civic amenities and facilities with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and measuring. East to West : 60 feet, North to South : 40 feet, Totally measuring: 2400 square feet.

And bounded as : **East by:** Site No. 676, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No. 710, **South by:** Site No. 708

A. FEROZE NIZAM, Advocate
No.113, 34th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070.
Mobile : 98860 33332
Email : ferozenizam@gmail.com
Date : 31.12.2025

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (South) Division,
Pune 411 001. Phone No. 020/26121765
Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail- integratedpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 74 FOR 2025-2026

Sealed Online **B-1 Tender Format** Tender Invited By The Executive Engineer, Public Works (South) Division, Pune 411 001. (Telephone No. 26121765). Invites bids for Given works from Registered Contractors in **B-1 Tender Format**, As per Maharashtra Government, Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Deparment Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra. Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 22/10/2018 & 19/01/2021.

Bids document can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**. Executive Engineer, reserves all rights to accept or reject bids without assigning any reasons. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

The detailed Tender Notice can be is available on

1. Web- **www.mahapwd.gov.in (Only Tender Notice)**

2. https://mahatenders.gov.in (Details of Tender Notice/Tender Booklets)

(Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)

Sd/-
(Anuradha R. Bhandare)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work(South) Division,
Pune 411 001.

DGIPR/2025/2026/4845

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The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
(Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Niveshak Shivir

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), operating under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is launching Niveshak Shivir – a dedicated initiative to address the concerns and queries of claimants across India.

Objective

Niveshak Shivir aims to simplify investor services, promote financial literacy and strengthen investor protection to:

- Facilitate the transfer of unpaid dividends (held for 6–7 years).
- Assisting with KYC and nomination updates with the company.
- Resolving pending IEPFA claims of unclaimed and unpaid shares and dividends.

Scheduled City

To take this vision forward, Niveshak Shivir will be organised in **Bengaluru.**

Event Details

Date/Time: 03rd January 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.
Venue: Sri Y Muniswaamappa Kalyaana Mantapa,
17, Tumkur Rd, near Gopal Theatre, Dr.Ambedkar Nagar, Yeswanthpur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560022

How to Participate

Please register by scanning the QR code provided in this notice or by clicking on the link:**https://qr.me-qr.com/l/NiveshakShivir**
This registration will help us ensure that you have received the most effective and timely assistance in Niveshak Shivir.

For More Information

Please visit our official website at www.iepf.gov.in. You can also follow us on our social media channels for the latest updates and announcements related to Niveshak Shivir.

We encourage all claimants to take advantage of this opportunity to have their concerns addressed directly by our experts. Your engagement is crucial in helping us provide better service and support.

Toll Free Number : 14453 | Call Centre: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

www.iepf.gov.in

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rashmi Guna. G daughter of Thiru Gunalan, Aged 33 (District of Birth: Chennai), residing at No. 105, Subramanian Illam, Murugan Nagar, Peelamedu, Coimbatore- 641004, shall henceforth be known as RASHMI GUNALAN

I, YARAGOGU Anil Kumar, F/o Yarragogula Abhiram R/at No.101, Ambika Residency Green House Layout, Doddathogur Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100 have changed my son's name from Yarragogula Abhiram to Yaragogu Abhiram vide affidavit dated 31/12/2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, YARRAGOGULA Anil Kumar, S/o Gopal Krishna, R/at No.101, Ambika Residency Green House Layout, Doddathogur Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100 have changed my name from Yarragogula Anil Kumar to Yaragogu Anil Kumar vide affidavit dated 31/12/2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, SUJATHA Yarragogula w/o Yaragogu Anil Kumar, R/at No.101, Ambika Residency Green House Layout, Doddathogur Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100 have changed my name from Sujatha Yarragogula to Sujatha Yaragogu vide affidavit dated 31/12/2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMONS FOR DISPOSAL SUIT ORDER V RULES 1,5 BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUB COURT KATTAPPANA
O.S. No. 73/2025

Plaintiffs: 1. Udayakumar S/o Parameswaran Pillai, aged 57 years, residing at Panangattu House, S.N. Junction, Kattappana Village, Idukki Taluk.

2. Sreelatha W/o Udayakumar, aged 52 years, residing at Panangattu House, S.N. Junction, Kattappana Village, Idukki Taluk.

Defendants: 3. P. Vijayalakshmi, aged 68 years, W/o A Prabhu Arumugham, residing at House No. 96, 11 Cross Pavamana Nagar, Gottigere, Kompattahalli road, Bannerghatta P.O, Pin: 560083, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka State.

4. P.A. Sankar, aged 37 years S/o A Prabhu Arumugham, residing at House No. 96, 11th Cross Pavamana Nagar, Gottigere, Kompattahalli road, Bannerghatta P.O, Pin: 560083, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka State.

To

The defendants No. 3 and 4

Whereas the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of money, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by Some Person, able to answer all such questions, on the day 6th day of January 2026 at 11 '0' clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim and as the day fixed for your appearance. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order
(Sd/-) Joseph Kavumkal, Advocate
Kattappana, Idukki, Kerala

Kattappana
15.12.2025

Sex systems boost mitochondrial evolution in many kinds of insects

The results of a new study show how the way a species produces its males and females can shape the path of mitochondrial evolution, revealing an unexpected connection between reproductive biology and diversity; the implications extend to how experts keep track of insect biodiversity

D.P. Kasbekar

Ants, bees, and wasps make females from eggs fertilized by sperm while the unfertilized eggs develop into males. Representative image. DAVID CLODE/UNSPLASH

Researchers from the University of Guelph in Canada have reported an astonishing discovery: that the number of chromosome sets in their bodies' cells seems to be linked to the rate at which the species' mitochondrial genome evolves.

This is unusual because mitochondrial DNA sits in a separate genome from the chromosomes in the nucleus, and its evolution rate is usually linked to factors like mutation rate, metabolism, and population size – rather than the chromosomes.

Evolutionary biologists had not anticipated such a connection, which could have important implications for our understanding of how fast insects' DNA changes and how we track biodiversity.

The team's findings were published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B on November 26.

Mitochondrial DNA

Insects use different ways to produce males and females. Ants, bees, and wasps make females from eggs fertilized by sperm, while the unfertilized eggs develop into males. So females have two sets of chromosomes in their genome, one from the egg and the other from the sperm, and are said to be diploid. Males have only one set of chromosomes and are said to be haploid. This type of sex determination is called haplo-diploid (HD).

On the other hand, in the diplo-diploid (DD) system, both males and females transmit one chromosome of each pair to their sperm and eggs. The males and females instead differ by which sex chromosome they have.

Mitochondria are a cell's powerhouses: they produce most of its adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the compound that serves as the energy source for all cellular functions. Aeons ago, some single-celled ancestor of earthlife engulfed a bacterium that then evolved to become mitochondria. Since then, many of this bacterium's genes were transferred to the host cell's nucleus, leaving behind a minuscule rump. That's the mitochondrial genome, or mitogenome. The mitogenome is five-million-times smaller than our nuclear DNA. It encodes only 12 mitochondrial proteins; the remainder are encoded by nuclear DNA.

Males don't transmit their mitochondria to their progeny; only females do, via the egg.

How then could male haploidy influence the rate of evolution in a maternally inherited genome?

Scientists are aware of around one million insect species, which they've grouped into 29 groups called orders. Four of the better known orders are Coleoptera (beetles), Diptera (flies and mosquitoes), Hemiptera (true bugs), and Hymenoptera (ants, bees, and wasps). These orders are extraordinarily species-rich. Others include Thysanoptera (small slender insects), Psocodea (lice), and Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies).

For the new study, the researchers surveyed 86,000 insect species from 783 families in 26 orders. Of them, 131 families were HD and 652 were DD.

The Hymenoptera and Thysanoptera orders were uniformly HD. Coleoptera, Diptera, Hemiptera, and Psocodea included both HD and DD families and tribes. Lepidoptera and the remaining orders were uniformly DD.

The COI gene

To test for such differences, the team turned to one of mitochondria's key workhorse proteins, cytochrome c oxidase subunit I, or COI.

The corresponding COI gene is located in the mitogenome. The researchers took a closer look at a segment of the gene, which gives cells the recipe for a particular stretch of the COI protein.

For each of the 783 insect families, the team built a "consensus" DNA sequence for this region by combining data from at least 100 species in that family. Then they translated each family's consensus DNA into a consensus amino acid sequence. They also made a similar consensus for Entognatha, the sister group to insects, to act as a close non-insect comparison group.

They found something striking. Compared to this out-group, insect species with HD sex systems had about 1.7-times more changes in the COI protein than species with the more common DD system. HD species also showed many more small insertions and deletions of amino acids in this region.

Simply speaking, the COI gene seemed to have evolved much faster in HD species than in DD species, as if their mitochondrial DNA had been running on a different, faster evolutionary track.

Insect species with HD sex systems had about 1.7-times more changes in the COI protein than species with the more common DD system. HD species also showed many more small insertions and deletions of amino acids in this region

The results show how the way a species produces its males and females can shape the path of mitochondrial evolution, revealing a connection between reproductive biology and diversity.

"Insects quietly keep the planet running, their numbers are under pressure, and our study shows that the way they produce males and females can influence how fast their DNA changes," Avas Pakrashi, the study's first author, a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics at the University of Guelph at the time of the study, said.

The implications extend to how experts keep track of insect biodiversity.

"If certain insect groups (like HD species) accumulate mutations in their mitochondrial DNA more quickly, their COI barcodes may change at a different pace than others," Dr. Pakrashi, now with the Zoological Survey of India, added. "So some species might look more genetically distinct than they really are or cause closely related species to blur together, affecting identification accuracy."

In HD species, males carry only one copy of each nuclear gene. Because there is no second copy to mask changes, any new mutation in these genes has an immediate effect on the body.

Making sense

Since changes in the nuclear genome show their effects right away in HD males, it pushes mitochondrial genes – especially those that interact with nuclear gene products – to evolve more quickly. This is what the new finding implies.

This exigency isn't as severe in diploid males because diploidy shelters new mutations from as quick an exposure to selection.

This said, the research paper has acknowledged that these patterns are still only correlations – although the team has also speculated on some potential causes.

One idea turns on how selection works in haploid males. Because every nuclear gene in an HD male is 'visible' to natural selection, genes that improve the cooperation between nuclear and mitochondrial proteins may spread faster. That in turn could allow more new mitochondrial mutations to take hold.

A second idea is that in HD lineages, the nuclear genes effectively come from a smaller breeding pool, so slightly harmful nuclear changes may sometimes be fixed by chance. Mitochondrial genes would then be pushed to evolve compensating tweaks to keep the cell's power system running.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

There is concern that growing rice is draining India's aquifers. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

India's status as world's rice leader augurs a water crisis

Reuters

When India overtook China as the world's largest producer of rice this year, the country's politicians and agriculture lobby marked the moment by praising resilient farmers and innovative government policy. India has nearly doubled the amount of rice it exported over the past decade, with shipments crossing 20 million metric tonnes in the latest fiscal year.

But many rice farmers in the country's agricultural heartlands are in a less celebratory mood. There is widespread concern that rice crops are unsustainably draining India's already-low aquifers, forcing farmers to borrow heavily to drill ever-deeper borewells.

In the rice-basket states of Haryana and Punjab, groundwater was reachable at around 30 feet a decade ago, according to 50 farmers and eight water and agriculture officials. But drainage has accelerated in the past five years and borewells must now go between 80 and 200 feet, according to the farmers, whose accounts were corroborated with government data and research by Punjab Agricultural University.

At the same time, government subsidies that incentivise rice cultivation discourage farmers from switching to less water-intensive crops, said Uday Chandra, a South Asia politics expert at Georgetown University in Qatar. The subsidies include a minimum price for rice that has climbed by around 70% over the past decade, as well as heavy power subsidies that encourage extracting water for farm use.

Producing a kilogram of rice consumes 3,000-4,000 litres of water. That is between 20-60% more than the global average

The net effect, said Avinash Kishore at the International Food Policy Research Institute think-tank in Washington, is that one of the world's most water-stressed countries is paying farmers to consume vast amounts of groundwater.

India grows far more rice than it needs to feed its domestic population, which overtook China's in 2023 to become the world's largest, at more than 1.4 billion people.

While farmers in much of India rely on a mix of surface and groundwater irrigation, growers in Punjab and Haryana typically depend on groundwater. That dependence makes rice farmers in both states particularly vulnerable to weak monsoons.

Even though monsoon rains have been strong for the last two years, farmers have been extracting so much water that aquifers in large parts of Haryana and Punjab are classified by the Indian government as either "over-exploited" or at "critical". The two States extract between 35% and 57% more groundwater annually than their aquifers naturally replenish, according to government data for 2024 and 2025.

Growers constrained to existing borewells are in turn spending more money on longer pipes and more powerful pumps, the farmers said.

Producing a single kilogram of rice consumes 3,000-4,000 litres of water, according to farm economist Ashok Gulati, who previously advised the government on crop prices. That is between 20-60% more than the global average, according to farm-policy experts.

There are some signs that Indian officials are hoping to break the vicious cycle between subsidies and groundwater extraction. Haryana last year began offering a subsidy of ₹ 17,500 per hectare to encourage farmers to swtch to crops such as millets, which require less water. However, the incentive is available only for one growing season.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The science of what eugenics gets wrong

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Most human traits that eugenics cares about, such as intelligence and disease risks, are influenced by thousands of genetic variants; many of which contribute in small but important ways to the overall probability. Such traits are said to be X. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Single genes or variants can also affect multiple traits, a condition called _____, so tweaking one gene can adversely affect an unintended trait. This is why it's often meaningless to remove "bad" genes, and the effects of doing so may not become apparent until later. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Some gene variants persist because it's advantageous to be Y, i.e. have only one copy, even if having two copies is harmful or because a variant's importance depends on how common it is. That is, removing a variant could remove a population-level advantage, rendering the notion of "purifying" a population incoherent. Name Y.

QUESTION 4

Even when genes matter, an extreme score such as high IQ can reflect anything from luck to the environment, not just heredity. In fact children are usually less extreme on that score than their parents are, a statistical concept called 'Z to the mean'. What is Z?

QUESTION 5

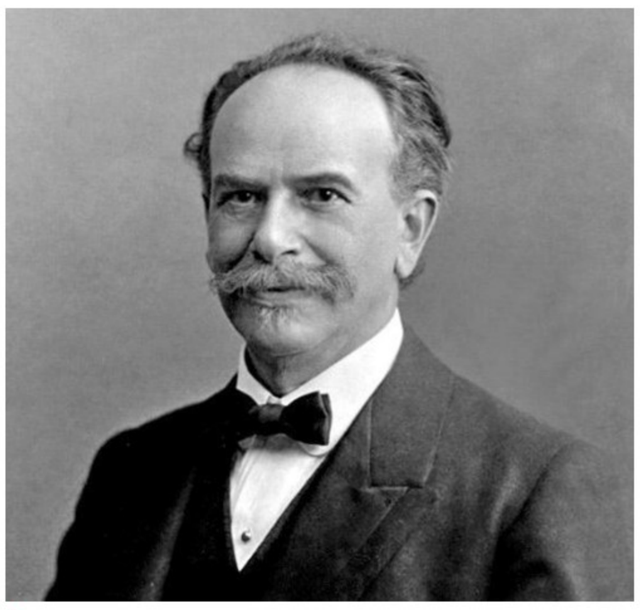
If two people have the same DNA, their health or behaviour can still turn out very different depending on their diets, stress levels, exposure to pollution, etc. Some of these differences can also last for years without changing the genes. What is the causal phenomenon called?

Answers to December 30 quiz:

1. Colourless gas that smells like garlic/fish when impure – **Ans: Phosphine**
2. Gas notorious for smelling like rotten eggs – **Ans: Hydrogen sulphide**
3. Three-atom gas with sharp 'electrical' smell – **Ans: Ozone**
4. Reddish-brown halogen with irritating vapour – **Ans: Bromine**
5. Smallest aldehyde, used to preserve biological specimens – **Ans: Formaldehyde**

Visual: **Acetic acid**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Sajal Saxena | Pramod Singh | Anmol Agrawal | Vijay Sai



Visual: Name this German-American anthropologist who proved that traits treated as "racial", e.g. skull dimensions, could shift within a single generation, undermining eugenicists' claims. PUBLIC DOMAIN

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Highest number of FIRs registered annually in Jammu

67 During 2025, the Economic Offences Wing of Jammu Crime Branch disposed of a record number of cases, resolved 1,186 complaints and registered 67 new cases, the highest in the last 25 years, an agency spokesman said. The monetary value of the disposed cases chargesheeted by the agency stood at ₹20 crore during the year, he said. PTI

Cases registered in Telangana's Anti-Corruption Bureau

199 Out of the 199 cases, 157 were trap cases leading to the arrest of 224 accused, including 176 government servants. Furthermore, the bureau unearthed properties worth over ₹96 crore in the 15 DA cases. It also conducted 26 regular enquiries into allegations of corruption and carried out 54 surprise inspections of various offices. PTI

People injured in Uttarakhand local train collision

88 Chamoli District Magistrate Gaurav Kumar said that the accident occurred around 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Tunnel Boring Machine site. He said 109 people were on board, most of them labourers. None of the injured was serious, he said. He said 70 labourers were brought to the district hospital, of whom 66 were given discharge, while four are under treatment. PTI

Drug trafficking bust: heroin seized by Delhi Police

10 In ₹ crores. Delhi Police seized over 2kg of heroin valued at more than ₹10 crore and arrested two men linked to an inter-State drug trafficking syndicate. The contraband was recovered during raids in Dwarka and Laxmi Nagar following intelligence inputs. Police said the drugs were sourced from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and supplied across Delhi-NCR. PTI

Additional tariffs announced on beef imports by China

55 In per cent. China will impose additional tariffs of up to 55% on certain beef imports starting January 1. The move applies to fresh and frozen, bone-in and boneless beef shipments exceeding a specified quota from some countries. Beijing said a probe found rising beef imports were harming China's domestic industry. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On property registration and title

What did the Supreme Court rule in *Samiullah vs State of Bihar*? Why did the court strike down Bihar's mutation-linked registration rules? Why is registration legally distinct from title or ownership? What structural flaws make land transactions 'traumatic' in India?

EXPLAINER

Girija Bhosale
Malini Mallikarjun

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court struck down Bihar's mutation-linked registration rules as ultra vires and arbitrary, reaffirming that registration of a transfer deed is distinct from establishing title or ownership, which lies within the jurisdiction of civil courts.
- The rulings in Samiullah and K. Gopi underscore that the Registration Act is concerned solely with the registration of documents and creates only a rebuttable presumption of ownership, not conclusive proof.
- By describing property transactions as 'traumatic', the court said the deeper problems of fragmented land governance, unsynchronised records and the urgent need for administrative and technological reform, including integrated and digitised land records.

The story so far:

The Supreme Court of India, in its recent decision in *Samiullah vs State of Bihar*, described the process of buying and selling property as "traumatic" for many Indians. The observation resonates widely, reflecting the complex and often challenging realities of land transactions in the country.

What did the Supreme Court rule in the Samiullah case?

The Supreme Court examined the validity of sub-rules introduced under the Bihar Registration Rules in 2019, which empowered the registering authorities to refuse the registration of documents transferring property, such as sale or gift deeds, if the seller could not provide proof of mutation, including documents like a *Jamabandi* or holding allotment.

The court struck down these sub-rules as ultra vires and arbitrary for three reasons.

First, the rules went beyond the powers granted to the Inspector General of Registration under the Registration Act. Second, by making the sellers produce proof of mutation as a precondition for registering a document, the rules effectively demanded evidence of title. This was held to be contrary to the object of the Registration Act. It curtailed the ability to freely transfer property, thereby significantly impacting the constitutionally protected right to property. Third, with the Bihar Mutation Act and the Bihar Special Survey and Settlement Act far from completion, obtaining proof of mutation was virtually impossible.

The court reaffirmed that the registration of a transfer deed is distinct from establishing title or ownership. The enquiry into questions of title and ownership falls within the scope of civil courts and not registration offices. The court concluded that the preconditions for registration pertain to the identification of the property and the seller. References to maps or surveys are made only for this purpose, if it is practicable.

Why is registration different from title?

The State of Bihar argued that mandatory proof of mutation would ensure the integrity of sale transactions by aligning registration with the actual title. While the court acknowledged the merit in synchronisation, it cited the lack of nationwide land surveys since 1950 and insufficient digitisation of land records as significant obstacles.

The court observed that, until a conclusive titling is integrated with the registration process, it remains the responsibility of constitutional courts to strike a balance between individuals' freedom to buy and sell property and the government's obligation to maintain the integrity of property transactions.

In June, in *K.Gopi vs Sub-Registrar,* the Supreme Court had clarified the position of law on registration and title by holding that the Sub-Registrar is not concerned with the title of the property as he lacks the adjudicatory power to decide ownership-related questions. Thereby, it struck down a rule framed by the State of Tamil Nadu that empowered Sub-Registrars to refuse registration of sale deeds on the ground that the seller had not established title or ownership. The rule mandated the seller to produce the original deed through which ownership was acquired.

A similar line of reasoning is evident in the court's successive judgment in *Samiullah*.

Both decisions underscore that the Registration Act is concerned solely with the registration of documents. Registration creates only a rebuttable presumption of ownership, not conclusive proof. The forthcoming Registration Bill, 2025 – which seeks to replace the Registration Act of 1908 – is consistent with this position. The premise of these regulations is that the power to refuse registration cannot be construed as empowering registering officers to adjudicate upon questions of title or ownership of property, which are within the jurisdiction of a competent court.

While this position merely reinforces a long-established principle, it is still a timely reminder of the complexity of land administration and the need to reform it.

Why has buying and selling property become 'traumatic' in India?

Land governance in India is a mixture of colonial legislation, complex administrative set-ups, and an overburdened judiciary. This often results in prolonged battles for land, be it bureaucratic or judicial.

Three separate domains – Registration, Survey and Settlement, and Revenue – operate independently, making synchronisation of records a persistent challenge. Each department is governed by a separate legislative and administrative mandate. Further, the current system creates only a presumption of title, which can be challenged in court using evidence such as previous deeds, revenue receipts, mutation records, proof of possession, or even competing sale deeds. This places a heavy burden on buyers to conduct exhaustive due diligence before purchasing property.

Along with understanding legislative and administrative designs on land records, it is important to recognise the complexities that stem from the historical inconsistencies in land governance across the Indian subcontinent. Over centuries, the region has been governed by various rulers, each implementing distinct revenue systems. The legacy of diverse administrative practices, colonial rule, separate rules applied in princely states, the creation of different types of titles, and significant post-independence reforms, such as land ceiling acts, has resulted in a highly intricate and regionally varied socio-legal framework for land.

What is the way forward for land administration reform?

The solution lies in large-scale administrative reform. The focus needs to be on creating an integrated and synchronised record-keeping system that minimises the risk of fraud. Efforts are under way at both the Union and State levels to digitise and modernise land records.

For instance, Karnataka's Bhoomi and KAVERI systems link records of rights with registration, automatically updating ownership records upon the registration of transfer deeds. Similar integration efforts are being attempted for spatial data and revenue records, though primarily for agricultural land.

Technology is playing a key role in these reform initiatives. From digitising records to making workflow processes tech-enabled, there is also growing discussion on the role of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies. In fact, in its recent decision, the Supreme Court suggested exploring blockchain technology to create secure, transparent, and tamper-proof land records. Andhra Pradesh's pilot project using blockchain for land records has reportedly halved land disputes and improved transaction efficiency by 30%.

How would blockchains work?

Blockchain, as its moniker suggests, is a chain of blocks of data linked into an uneditable, digital chain. This information is stored in an open-source, decentralised environment, in which each block's information is confirmable by every participating computer. Unlike traditional hierarchical systems, it's designed to have decentralised management, which is intended to build trust and stability.

Blocks are the ledgers that are being updated and added to, filled with permanently recorded data. Transactions are added to this database and synced across all nodes. These blocks operate on a distributed ledger, meaning that all information and transactions are shared between parties regardless of geography or status.

These ledgers can be permissioned or unpermissioned, depending on who is allowed to view them. The nature of this decentralised block database system keeps hackers from tampering with or changing information on the blockchain, as altering a single piece of code would be immediately recognisable. Attempting to double-spend, fraudulently duplicating the digital currency or asset, is difficult to do because of the distributed ledger transaction system.

In this way, the distributed ledger is an immutable record that is consistent and chronologically organised. If we apply this system to land records, we could create a block for a single piece of land containing all its historical records, title, heirs of title holders, geographic location, survey details, its map, water resources, crops, along with all registered documents associated with the particular land. Any further transactions of the same land will create another connected block of information, creating a constantly updated, transparent and immutable network of land records. However, we must also ensure that information stored in these blocks is accurate, else it would create an additional burden on owners to correct such data. More importantly, existing land administration and related structures need to be accounted for before the introduction of newer technologies.

The Supreme Court's recent decision highlights the urgent need for administrative and technological reforms. Understanding the deep-rooted complexities of India's land governance is the first step towards meaningful solutions that secure the right to property for all.

Girija Bhosale works as Research Coordinator at BhuSampada in National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; Malini Mallikarjun is the Head of BhuSampada at NIAS

II PUC practical exams to be web-streamed

KSEAB has taken steps to install CCTV cameras in all examination centres and upload the practical examination marks online to the KSEAB server

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The KSEAB will conduct II PUC practical examinations at the district level from January 27 to February 14. FILE PHOTO

To prevent malpractice in II PUC practical examinations and to preserve the sanctity of evaluation, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has taken steps to web-stream the practical exams of 2025-26.

In addition, it has also taken steps to install CCTV cameras in all examination centres and to upload the marks online to the KSEAB server from the examination centres.

"To prevent any shortcomings in the II PUC practical examinations, a circular has been issued to implement web-streaming and a system of entering marks online at the examination centres from this year, and the examinations will be conducted accordingly," said Gopalakrishna H.N., Director of KSEAB.

The KSEAB will conduct II PUC practical examinations at the district level, headed by the Deputy Directors of Pre-University (DDPUs) of the respective district, from January 27 to February 14.

The subjects with practicals will have 70 marks for the theory paper and 30 marks for the practical exam. There is no minimum cut-off mark for students to pass the practical examination. However, students need to score at least 21 marks to pass the theory exam out of a maximum of 70 marks.

The minimum marks required for each subject, including both theory and practical exams, is 30. However, students need to score a total of 33% marks this year to pass.

The students can appear for the theory exam even if they are absent from the practical exam. But, the minimum marks required to pass must be obtained in the theory exam.

However, it has come to the notice of the board that students are scoring maximum marks in the practical exams and scoring less marks in the theory section.

There have also been incidents where students who performed poorly in practical exams were given good marks.

"Such unethical practices raise doubts about the sanctity of the evaluation of practical exams," the KSEAB opined.

BJP seeks NIA probe into Kogilu Layout encroachments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

R. Ashok, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and other BJP leaders talking to displaced family members at Kogilu Layout in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday visited Fakeer Colony and parts of Waseem Layout in Kogilu Layout, where the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) recently demolished houses allegedly built on government land.

The BJP alleged that the area was at risk of becoming a hub for sleeper cells, and demanded that the matter be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for a detailed probe, including verification of the citizenship of those residing there.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, along with other BJP leaders, interacted with residents in the locality and examined identity cards and other documents. According to a BJP release, Mr. Ashok questioned residents about how long they had been living in the area, who had brought them there and whether the sites had been formally allotted.

During one such interaction, a local woman reportedly told Mr. Ashok that her family had been living there for around 25 years. Disputing the claim, Mr. Ashok said there were no visible houses in satellite images from a year ago.

Addressing reporters later, Mr. Ashok criticised Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for not visiting areas where encroachments had been cleared. He insisted that citizenship verification of the residents should be the first step and reiterated the demand for an NIA investigation.

Fact-finding panel

Mr. Ashok further alleged discrepancies in official figures on the number of residents. "Initially, it was reported in the media that there were about 160 residents. Now officials say there are 280, and some even estimate the population could go up to 400. Satellite images from just one year ago show the area as entirely green. This suggests that these settlements have come up very recently," he said. He also alleged that a rowdy-sheeter named Waseem had developed the layout in his own name and accused him of acting as a Congress agent.

The BJP also targeted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, alleging that the Congress government was attempting to regularise illegal settlements by promising housing. "Providing shelter without verifying eligibility will set a dangerous precedence," Mr. Ashok said.

Meanwhile, BJP State president B. Y. Vijayendra has constituted a seven-member fact-finding committee to study the Kogilu Layout incident. The committee has been asked to submit its report within a week, the party said in the statement.

Kogilu rehabilitation

On the other hand, the government maintained that due process was being followed. Housing Minister Mr. Khan said that following the eviction drive, the GBA and the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation were reviewing documents to identify eligible beneficiaries for alternative permanent housing. "The government's intention is to provide houses only to those who are eligible. The Chief Minister has instructed officials to conduct a comprehensive document review without any haste," he said. He added that officials from the Revenue Department and the GBA were engaged in the verification process and that, in this context, the distribution of houses scheduled for January 1 had been postponed to January 2.

Home Minister rejects claim

Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday dismissed the BJP's allegation as a "political statement". He said that the relief measures were being extended purely on humanitarian grounds and only after thorough verification of documents to establish eligibility, adding that the beneficiaries were local residents. "Let the BJP protest if it wants, but it is wrong to casually claim that Bangladeshis are being accommodated. Don't we verify documents? Houses are allotted only after proper checks. If any Bangladeshi nationals are found, will we give them houses? They will be arrested, informed to their Embassy and deported," Dr. Parameshwara said in response to a question.

Policeman suspended for involvement in land grab

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The crackdown on policemen allegedly involved in corruption and anti-social activities continued in Bengaluru Rural district, with the suspension of a head constable attached to the Nelamangala police station.

The head constable, identified as Girijesh, has been suspended for allegedly illegally encroaching upon eight acres of government land in Machanahalli village. Following the allegations, a criminal case has been registered against him and five others at the Dobbspet police station.

Bengaluru Rural Superintendent of Police C.K. Baba issued the suspension order recently and also initiated a departmental inquiry against the policeman. Official sources said Girijesh has been suspended on charges of indiscipline and conduct unbecoming of a police officer. The police said that strict action would continue against personnel found indulging in corrupt practices or activities that tarnish the image of the department.

Dalit literature study camp from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Sahitya Academy, in collaboration with the Kannada Studies Centre and Bangalore University, will organise a three-day study camp titled 'Dalit Literature and Movement-50' at Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi campus, from January 2 to 4.

Jayakar S.M., Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, will preside over the programme, There will be discussions on the path taken by Dalit literature and movement, its impact, and current status.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division,
Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005.

No: EE/PN/TEND/PR/04/2025-26 Date: 30-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders on item rate basis from registered Contractors of equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the Works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	GENERAL CATEGORY WORKS
1	Improvements to Road and Drain Kupom Street and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 48 (71) Muneshwaranagar (Block No: 44 & 46). **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00**
2	Improvement to Road and Construction of RCC Drain at Basavanagara and Ashokanagara Surrounding Cross Roads in Ward No. 31 Kushalanagar of Pulikeshinagara Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 200000.00**
3	Improvements of CC Road & Drain at Shampura Old Village & Surrounding Area in Ward No. 69 (32) Kavlbyrasandra and Surrounding Area (Block No. 19). **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00**
4	Improvements of Roads and Drains Thangamalainagar and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 47, D.J. Halli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 450000.00**
5	Improvements Roads and Drains Doddammanagara Colony and 'E' Block in Ward D.J. Halli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 300000.00**
6	Additional Works to BBMP Quarters near Roshannagara in Ward No. 72 (47), D.J. Halli for the year 2025-26. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 200000.00**
	SCHEDULED CASTE CATEGORY WORK
1	Improvement to Road and Drain at Ambedkar Football Ground and Kannada Model School and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 71 (48) of Pulikeshinagara Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00**
	SCHEDULED TRIBE CATEGORY WORKS
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains near Ashokanagara Government Kannada Tamil Lower Primary School and Surroundings Area in Ward No. 31 (70) Kushalnagara (Block No: 25). **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50000.00**
2	Improvement to Ward Office Building and Other Filled Works in Ward No. 69 (32) Kavalbyrasandra for the year 2025-26. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00**
	CAT-I CATEGORY WORK
1	Improvement to Road and Drain at Periyarnagara Surrounding Cross Road and D.J. Halli Maternity Hospital Surrounding Road Area Cross Roads in Ward No. 48 of Pulikeshinagara Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00**
	CAT-II(A) CATEGORY WORK
1	Improvements to Road and Drains at Rama Temple and Periyarnagara Cross Roads and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 48 (71) Muneshwaranagara (Block No: 56 and 57). **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50000.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 09-01-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **19-01-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **30-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **31-01-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Pulikeshinagar Division, BNCC.

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते

ATTENTION MANUFACTURERS

of Chewing tobacco, Jarda scented tobacco & Gutkha

CAPACITY-BASED EXCISE DUTY
to apply from **1st February, 2026**

The Central Excise Duty on Chewing Tobacco, Jarda Scented Tobacco and Gutkha, when manufactured with the aid of packing machine and packed in pouches, will be levied on the basis of capacity of production **w.e.f. 1st February, 2026**

No need for new Central Excise registration for already registered taxpayers.

A Declaration in prescribed format regarding details of machines in the premises as per Rules shall be filed by such manufacturers with the Jurisdictional Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise, between **1st February, 2026 to 7th February, 2026**

S.No.	Compliance	Due Date
1.	Central Excise Duty Payment for a month	06th day of the same month
2.	Central Excise Statement for a month	10th day of the same month

In other cases such as tin, the duty will be paid on the assessable value calculated on the basis of Retail Selling Price (subject to abatement).

For more information please refer to notification No. 04/2025-Central Excise dated 31st December, 2025

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CBC 15502/13/0048/2526

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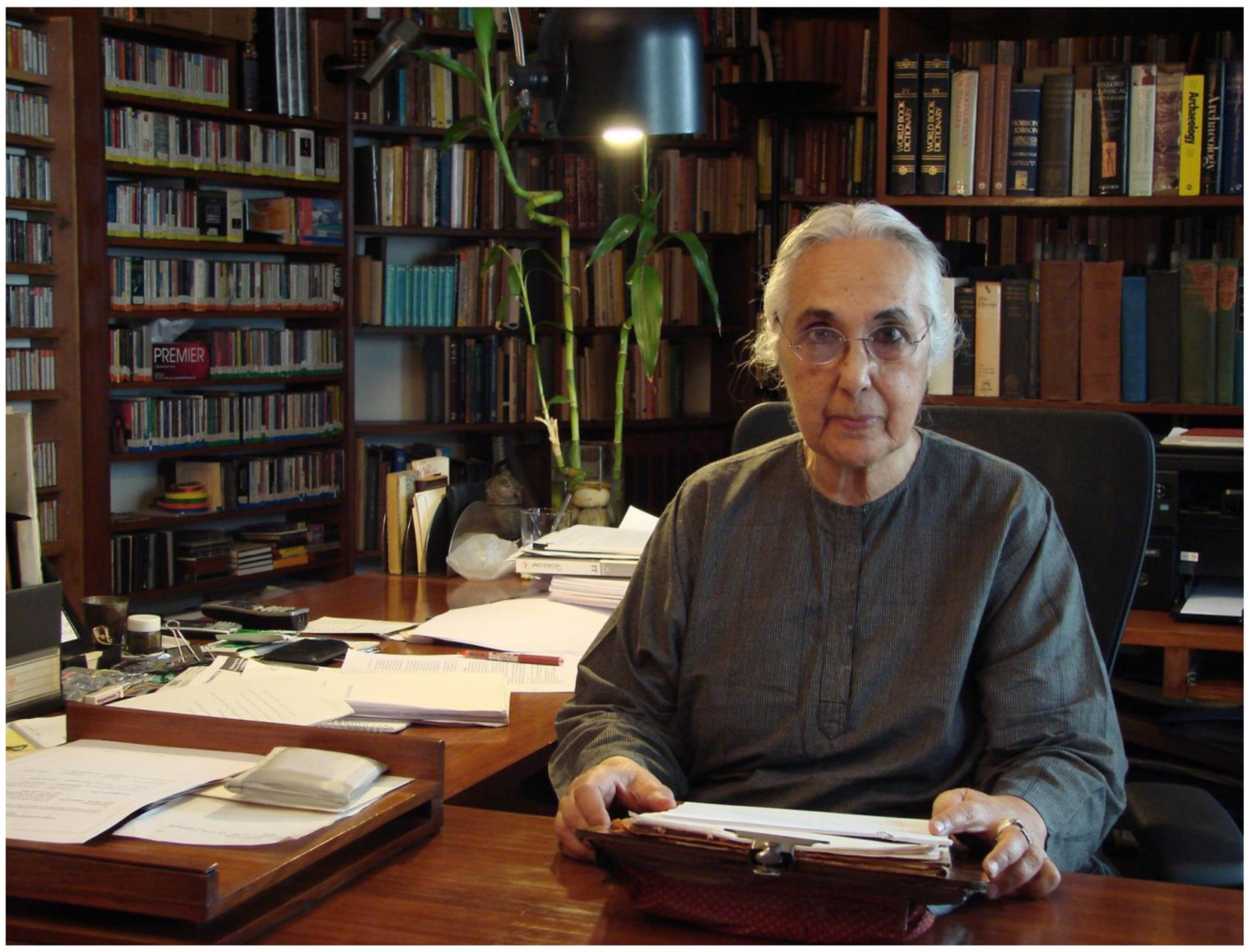

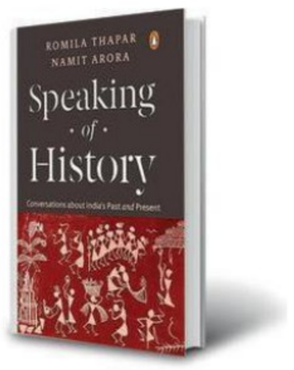

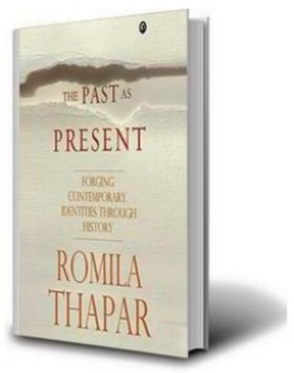

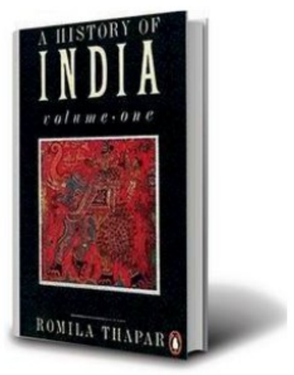

Romila Thapar

Past, present, future: the dangerous path of distorted history

Romila Thapar always relied on rigorous analysis and credible sources to write about the past and explain its ties with the present; in her new book, she has a conversation with Namit Arora on why history is misunderstood and the perils of learning about the past from WhatsApp forwards

Ziya Us Salam

Many years ago, when we first dipped into Romila Thapar's defining work, *A History of India*, the lasting impression was that here was a historian who presented facts cogently, persuasively, and by the end of a chapter managed to convince you to read more on the subject.

Not much has changed in the intervening years, and her collections, *The Past as Present: Forging Contemporary Identities Through History, The Future in the Past: Essays and Reflections*, *Somanatha: The Many Voices of History*, provide an understanding on how the present draws on the past, "not necessarily always to better understand the past but to use the past to legitimise the present."

Her latest tome, *Speaking of History: Conversations about the Past and the Present,* co-authored with Namit Arora, dissects contemporary trends and expresses the concerns of a discerning Indian.

Anguished at the way things have shaped up in Indian society and polity over the last few years, she opens up to Arora, stating, "It used to be claimed that Indian culture was different from other world cultures because the people of India were concerned with values such as non-violence and tolerance, and the ethics of a situation. It was almost automatic to invoke the words of Gautam Buddha and Ashok Maurya in this context. Yet today, few associate these values with India... if you have a society in which ethical values are no longer even discussed, let alone practised, then you're in for a society that... will be ruled by mobs and demagogues."

WhatsApp history

Unlike most of us who fail to put a finger to the root cause of the problem, Thapar feels the growth of the so-called WhatsApp brand of history does a lot of damage to the social fabric of the nation. "There are at least two features specific to our society that are responsible for the rise of 'WhatsApp history'. The first is our abysmally poor standard of education. Even our so-called educated middle classes lack a basic understanding of any social science discipline... Textbooks are mauled and courses are chopped up into unconnected, indigestible bits... The second reason is that in our times, politics is impinging far more on our lives than ever before. Hindutva has a theory about the past that draws from texts on mythology, on the colonial view of Indian history and a believed fantasy history....Those who question it are dubbed Marxists."

Colonial duplicity

The rise of the WhatsApp history factory, in turn, can be traced to the British days of easy, if inaccurate and lazy, division of Indian history into Hindu Ancient India and Muslim Medieval India. This falsification emanated from another myth, that Indians did not have written history!

In her latest book, where conversation flows nice and easy and myths are busted regularly, Thapar writes, "In the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century, colonial power assumed that Indians had no written history and that they would have to create it." So this creation came out in the form of a history divided into periods of two religious communities, which James Mill referred to as Hindu and Muslim.

"He attributed to these highly diverse socio-religious communities a perpetual, permanent hostility towards each other, which is his own invention. The communities as nations are his invention, as is the hostility," feels Thapar. This division of history into two religious watertight departments has, in many ways, led to our times when a large section of society consumes 'WhatsApp history', and peddles it as fact.

At the preliminary stage, it presents all Muslim rulers as invaders and blood thirsty tyrants. Then come the attempts to appropriate all Aryans as the original inhabitants of India. Writes Thapar, "Most scholars today agree that the speakers of Indo-Aryan originated outside the boundaries of British India, arriving from Central Asia... Indo-Aryan used in north-western India was a cognate of Iranian-Aryan used in north-eastern Iran. It was a close relationship... If the Vedic Indo-Aryans were performing the Soma ritual, the Iranian-Aryans were performing what they called the Homa ritual, the 's' sound being replaced by the 'h' sound from one language to the other. Hence, the river Sindhu (Indus) in the Indo-Aryan becomes Hindu/Hind(h)u in the Iranian-Aryan, and the Iranians refer to the people who live beyond the Sindhu as Hindus, which is a geographic and not a religious descriptor." Of course, the term 'Hindu' to describe people with a particular religious belief came into use later.

Sindhu or Hindu, patriarchy was strong in the Indo-Aryan culture. As the veteran historian points out in the book, "Dharmashastras permitted upper caste women hardly any freedom, as they were to be controlled by their father, husband and son, in the three phases of their life as daughter, wife and widowed mother."

The exceptions

Inevitably, there were exceptions. Like Prabhavati Gupta, who ruled as the Queen Regent in the fifth century after her husband died, and her son was yet to come of age. Much like Rani Laxmibai, many a century later. Then there were women Bhakti saints like Andal in South India, Lal Ded in Kashmir and Mirabai in Rajasthan. But they were isolated instances with little ripple effect. Even the latter marriages between the Mughals and Rajputs were largely political alliances where women were treated as mere property.

In reality, ours has been a male-dominated history. Add to that the present communal toxicity. And it becomes a recipe for disaster. Thapar provides a note of comfort, "If there is one thing I have learnt in my long life, it is that nothing... will last forever. There are periods when things work well and others when they don't. One has to accept the constant change."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As we turn to a new page in 2026, here's a quiz on major personalities who breathed their last in 2025

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Formerly a professor of organisational behaviour at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (1986-2006), this person was the co-founder of a major non-profit organisation that played a critical role in enhancing transparency in Indian elections in the last two decades. Name him and the organisation.

QUESTION 2

Beginning his activism as a 16-year-old against feudal and colonial practices in Alappuzha, this veteran political activist went on to become a major mass leader in Kerala and the Chief Minister of the State. When he died in 2025, he was the only surviving founding member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Name him.

QUESTION 3

Author of many bestsellers, he covered the attempted assassination of French President Charles De Gaulle as a journalist and then used that incident to inspire a best-selling thriller novel that was later made into films and, recently, an adapted web series. Name this former U.K. Royal Air Force pilot.

QUESTION 4

One of India's foremost astrophysicists and someone who also wrote popularly on astrophysics, astronomy and science fiction, he was a persistent critic of the Big Bang Theory despite its widespread acceptance. Name him.

QUESTION 5

One of three pioneering women primatologists who studied different great apes — the person in question was an expert on chimpanzees — she went on from being a primatologist to also be a major climate advocate. Name her.

Visual Question:
Identify this Padma Vibhushan-winning vocalist and a towering figure in Hindustani classical music. PTI

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In which country can one normally see people throwing dishes against the door and banging pots to scare away 'bad spirits'? **Ans: Denmark**
2. In this Spanish tradition that has recently become popular, what fruit do people eat 12 of for good luck in the New Year? **Ans: Grapes**
3. In which country is New Year's eve called 'Hogmanay'? **Ans: Scotland**
4. Name the spiced apple drink served in parts of England to toast good health for the New Year? **Ans: Wassail**
5. What do the Greeks hang on their doors on New Year's eve to symbolise rebirth? **Ans: Onions**
Name the country where one could see people observing 12 seconds of silence at midnight as a tribute to the year gone by? **Ans: Russia**
Visual: Name this effigy and the place in Kerala where it is burned at the stroke of midnight on New Year's eve to welcome the new year? **Ans: Pappanji, Fort Kochi**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Parimal Das | Tamal Biswas | Arjun Debnath | Sukdev Shet

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the word used to refer to a former student of a college or a university? (P. Venu Gopal, Gaddiannaram, Hyderabad)
A former male student of a school, college, or university is called an 'alumnus'. For example, Ramu is an alumnus of Osmania University. The 'a' in the first syllable and the 'u' in the final syllable are pronounced like the 'a' in 'about' and 'amount'. The 'u' in the second syllable 'mun' sounds like the 'u' in words like 'but', 'cut' and 'hut'. As you have probably guessed, the stress is on the second syllable.

The plural of 'alumnus' is 'alumni'. Most colleges and universities have an alumni association. The first two syllables of this word are pronounced like the first two syllables of the word 'aluminous'. The final syllable 'ni', however, is pronounced differently. It rhymes with the words 'high', 'sigh' and 'fly'.

The word 'alumna' is used to refer to a former female student of a school, college or university. For example: Usha is an alumna of Church Park High School. The 'a' in the first and last syllable of 'alumna' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'amount' and 'about'. The second syllable 'lum' is like the second syllable in 'alumnus'. The main stress once again is on the second syllable. The plural of 'alumna' is 'alumnae'. The final 'ae' is pronounced like the 'ee' in words like 'fee', 'bee' and 'see'. The stress is on the second syllable.

When referring to both male and female graduates, the masculine form 'alumni' is used.

What is the meaning of "across the board"? (P. K. Venkatachary, K.K. Nagar, Chennai)
When you say that a particular policy or scheme will apply across the board, it means that it will affect everyone or everything equally. Here is an example:. The Chairman said that there would be a salary increase across the board.

Public sector companies should aim at increasing productivity across the board. The Minister of Education has promised to increase the pay of teachers across the board. The word 'board' here refers to a table.

What is the meaning of "vis-a-vis" and how do we use it? (Dr. K. Sankara Saravanan, Nandyal)
In French, 'vis-a-vis' means 'face to face'. This meaning is retained in English as well. For example, we can say, 'the two lovers sat vis-a-vis'. In English, however, vis-a-vis has other meanings as well. It is often used to mean 'in relation to', 'in comparison with someone or something'.

The 's' in the first 'vis' is pronounced like the 'z' in words like 'zip' and 'zoo'. The 'i' sounds like the 'ee' in 'feel'. 'v' and 'w'. The 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit'. The 'a' sounds like the 'a' in 'bat' and 'path'. Unlike in the first 'vis' the 's' in the second one is silent. The main stress is on the second 'vis'.

Is it correct to say "This type of education was opted by high caste Indians?"
(J. Singh, Dungarpur, Rajasthan)
You don't usually 'opt' something; you 'opt for' something. You can also 'opt to do something'. For example: The teachers opted to help the Principal in running the workshop. My lazy cousin opted to stay at home and watch television.
Published in The Hindu on March 2, 1999

Word of the day

Fortuitous:
happening by chance rather than by intention

Synonyms: coincidental, fortunate, unexpected

Usage: *The timing was fortuitous for both sides.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/fortuitouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fɔːtjuːɪtəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

NCB busts International drug trafficking syndicate

The syndicate primarily comprised foreign nationals, aided by Indian associates; 160 kg of psychotropic substance valued at approximately ₹8 crore seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) busted a major international drug trafficking syndicate allegedly involved in the illicit smuggling of khat leaves and seized around 160 kg of the psychotropic substance valued at approximately ₹8 crore.

This is the largest seizure of khat in Karnataka since it was notified as a psychotropic substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psycotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2018, officials said.

The seizure was based on intelligence-driven operation, which revealed a well-organised transnational drug syndicate operating across more than 20 countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, and several Gulf countries. Preliminary investigation revealed that the contraband was smuggled into India through an international route originating in Ethiopia, transiting via Kenya, before reaching Bengaluru.

The syndicate allegedly exploited the international postal and courier network, camouflaging bulk consignments of khat as routine commercial goods such as tea consignments to evade detection.

The NCB officials revealed that the syndicate had dispatched over 550 parcels weighing nearly 2,100 kg to destinations across North America, Europe, and the Gulf countries Information regarding the in-transit consignments has been shared with enforcement agencies in the respective countries for coordinated action.

The probe further revealed that Bengaluru served as a key storage and distribution hub, where bulk consignments were broken down into smaller quantities for onward distribution. The network functioned through multiple layers, involving storage points, couriers, and local facilitators. The syndicate primarily comprised foreign nationals, aided by Indian associates. Several accused were found to be residing in India under the guise of student and medical visas, the officials added.

Despite khat being less commonly consumed in India, the NCB has taken strict enforcement action against its trafficking.

The officials said the case has exposed the scale, reach, and sophistication of international drug trafficking networks and underscored the critical need for inter-agency and cross-border cooperation to combat the global drug menace. Further probe is under way to identify additional members of the syndicate and trace financial routes.

KBBP offers 50% discount on books for Republic Day

BENGALURU: To mark Republic Day, the Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara (KBBP) has announced a special 50% discount on all its publications. The offer will commence on Thursday and will run until January 31, 2026. The discount is applicable on a wide range of Kannada literary works. Readers can avail themselves of the offer both at the KBBP bookstore and through its official website.

Bescom launches mobile app to monitor transformers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To ensure quality and uninterrupted power supply to its consumers, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has developed a mobile application, Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS).

According to a release, the app will help monitor and systematically carry out preventive maintenance of more than five lakh distribution transformers across eight districts under the Bescom's jurisdiction. Through the app, officials can continuously monitor the operation, preventive maintenance, repairs, and efficiency of distribution transformers. Field officers can enter all transformer maintenance details directly into the app.

Maintenance

"Under the DTLMS, a Distribution Transformer Centre maintenance module has been developed. This module is expected to play a key role in improving the efficiency, reliability, and continuity of the power distribution system. Using this module, the Bescom field officers will carry out quarterly maintenance of all transformers in their respective areas. This will help prevent power leakage, reduce losses, and ensure a quality power supply to consumers," said the release.

The field officers are required to upload photographs before and after maintenance of transformers in the application.

This ensures proper documentation of maintenance activities and also helps in keeping transformer premises clean and safe.

4 passengers injured after two sleeper buses crash

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At least four passengers were seriously injured and several others sustained minor injuries in a crash involving two sleeper buses near the Chandapura flyover on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when a sleeper bus heading towards Chennai from Bengaluru crashed into the rear of another bus. Probe suggested that overspeeding and loss of control by the driver may have led to the accident.

Water adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold a Water Adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to address a range of public issues related to water services. These include concerns over water billing, delays in water supply, sanitary connections, and the process of converting domestic connections to non-domestic connections.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 01			
RISE	06:42	SET	18:05
RISE	15:53	SET	04:15
FRIDAY, JAN. 02			
RISE	06:42	SET	18:05
RISE	16:59	SET	05:23
SATURDAY, JAN. 03			
RISE	06:42	SET	18:06
RISE	18:06	SET	06:29

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	15
Bengaluru	28	18

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Mostly dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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DATES: APR 7, 21. MAY 5, 26. JUN 9, 23. JUL 14, 28. AUG 11, 25. SEP 15, 29. OCT 13, 27. NOV 10.
70222 59008
13 DAYS
Best of Europe
FRANCE, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, AUSTRIA, VATICAN, ITALY.
DATES: MAR 27. APR 10, 17, 24. MAY 1, 8, 15, 29. JUN 12, 19, 26. JUL 3, 17, 31. AUG 7, 14, 28. SEP 4, 18, 25.
79750 01525
9 DAYS
Beauty of Europe
FRANCE, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND
DATES: MAR 27. APR 10, 17, 24. MAY 1, 8, 15, 29. JUN 12, 19, 26. JUL 3, 17, 31. AUG 7, 14, 28. SEP 4, 18, 25.
93641 04366
11 DAYS
United Kingdom
DUBLIN, Trinity College. BELFAST, Titanic Museum, Ferry from Belfast to Glasgow, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, Edinburgh Castle, LAKE WINDERMERE, Cruise on Lake Windermere, MANCHESTER, OXFORD, Oxford University, LONDON, Madame Tussauds, Ride on London Eye, Tower of London, Oval Cricket Stadium, Cruise on River Thames.
DATES: APR 7, 21. MAY 5, 26. JUN 9, 23. JUL 14, 28. AUG 11, 25. SEP 15, 29. OCT 13, 27. NOV 10.
70222 59008
10 DAYS
Scandinavia
HELSINKI, Senate Square, Uspensiki Cathedral, Cruise Silja to Stockholm, STOCKHOLM, Royal Vasa Ship Museum, City Hall, Drottningholm Palace, NORWAY IN NUTSHELL, Ride on the Flamsbana - The most scenic railway journey, Fjord cruise to Copenhagen, OSLO, Top of Holmenkollen Ski Jump, Vigeland Sculpture Park, COPENHAGEN, The Iconic Little Mermaid.
DATES: MAY 15, 29. JUN 12, 26. JUL 10, 24. AUG 14, 28. SEP 4, 18.
93641 04373
11 DAYS
East Europe
MUNICH, BMW Welt, BERLIN, Topography of Terror Museum, Little Big city Berlin, DRESDEN, PRAGUE, The Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, Czeski Krumlov, VIENNA, Schönbrunn Palace, BRATISLAVA, BUDAPEST, Hungarian Horse Show, Cruise on River Danube, ZAGREB, SLOVEINA, Ljubljana, Photostop at Lake Bled, ZELL AM SEE
DATES: APR 3, 17. MAY 8, 22. JUN 5, 19. JUL 3, 17. AUG 7, 21. SEP 4, 18. OCT 2, 16. NOV 6, 13.
93641 04373
10 DAYS
Portugal & Spain
LISBON, Sintra & Cascais, SEVILLE, Flamenco Show, TOLEDO, Sword Factory, MADRID, Santiago Bernabeu, VALENCIA, BARCELONA, Montjuic Cable Car, Sagrada Family, La Rambla, MARSEILLES, CANNES, NICE, Promenade des Anglais.
DATES: APR 3, 17. MAY 8, 22. JUN 5, 19. JUL 3, 17. AUG 7, 21. SEP 4, 18. OCT 2, 16. NOV 6, 13.
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ARC recommends one-time settlement for dues recovery

The commission notes that direct loans provided between 2013 and 2018 by minorities corporation, of which the principal amount of ₹714.28 cr. and interest of ₹14.31 cr. need to be recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of poor recovery of loans extended between 2013 and 2018 by the Minorities Development Corporation (KMDC), the Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended announcing 'One-Time Settlement' to recover dues of over ₹700 crore.

The commission noted that the direct loans to beneficiaries were provided between 2013-14 and 2018-19, of which the principal amount of ₹714.28 crore and interest of ₹14.31 crore needed to be recovered. Only about ₹86 crore has been recovered so far, it said, adding that recovery has been made difficult due to migration, marriage, change of employment and others. An OTS can be offered with a deadline and with discount, it has recommended.

The State departments are grappling with vacancies of posts as about 36% of the total sanctioned posts remain vacant.

Such a recommendation has been made by the second KARC headed by veteran Congress leader R.V. Deshpande in its final report to the government submitted on Tuesday.

To ensure the financial viability of Pinjrapoles and goshalas in the State, the commission has recommended increasing the financial assistance to about 259 private goshalas. As per the NDRF norms, ₹70 has been fixed as per day expense for the cattle of which 25% or ₹17.50 is being provided depending on funds. In the 2025-2026 budget, an allocation of ₹4 crore has been made for the purpose.

However, the commission noted that about 259 goshalas across the State are managing about 35,000 cattle and required about ₹89.42 crore. "The current allocation of ₹4 crore is sufficient to manage the cattle for 65 days. The financial support to per cattle should be raised from ₹17.50 to ₹40 that provide financial stability to the goshalas. This will bring an additional financial burden of ₹51.10 crore," it said.

The road to reforms

- The first Administrative Reforms Commission was set up in 2000 under the chairmanship of Haranahalli Ramaswamy. It submitted it's report in December 2001 with 481 recommendations
- The Second Karnataka ARC was set up in January 2021 under chairmanship of former Chief Secretary T.M. Vijaybhaskar, which submitted seven reports
- In January 2024, veteran Congress leader R.V. Deshpande was appointed as the chairman. It submitted three reports.
- In all, the second ARC has made a total of 6,031 recommendations to reform 42 departments.
- The government has implemented 2,104 recommendations, partially implemented 186 recommendations while 839 recommendations are in the implementation stage. As many as 2,274 recommendations are being reviewed.

To promote Kannada

Recommending an apex body to promote Kannada, the commission has recommended merging of the Kannada Development Authority, Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Authority and Kannada Pusthaka Authority to reduce administrative expenses and repetition of work. It has also recommended having a common project for State cultural events, festivals and honours to organise jayanthis, State and district level utsavas, Mysuru Dasara and Rajyotsava awards, that will work with a common annual calendar. It has also urged the government to review the monthly pension provided to artists and weed out ineligible beneficiaries.

High vacancies

The State departments are grappling with vacancies of posts as about 36% (about 2.94 lakh) of the total sanctioned posts of 8.16 lakh remain vacant. The School Education Department has the highest vacancy among all departments with about 79,000 posts of the total about 2.84 lakh posts remaining vacant, even as it has outsourced work (mostly teaching) to about 48,000 persons. This is followed by Health and Medical Education Department, where half of the sanctioned 75,411 posts remain vacant.

The Home Department has about 28,000 posts of the total 1.3 lakh sanctioned posts.

The Urban Development Department (16,937 posts), Higher Education (13,599 posts), Animal Husbandry (11,020 posts), Revenue (10,867 posts), Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (10,775 posts), Social Welfare (9,646 posts) and Agriculture (6,876 posts) departments are among those with high vacancies.

Interestingly, all the 31 sanctioned posts of mining engineers in Mines department are vacant. The commission has recommended for an independent research by institutions such as Indian Institute of Management or Institute for Social and Economic Change on the impact of outsourcing.

Not implemented

Meanwhile, about 36 % of the 727 recommendations made by the first Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Haranahalli Ramaswamy have not been implemented yet. As many as 265 recommendations are yet to be implemented. The commission submitted its report in December 2001. Of the recommendations to be implemented, 49 have not been agreed to by the departments.

Winners all

Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of Legislative Council, with awardees of the annual honour by the Press Club in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Cunha commission submits final report in COVID-19 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The John Michael Cunha commission, which investigated alleged irregularities in COVID-19 procurements and management in Karnataka during the erstwhile BJP government, submitted its final report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday.

The final report was related to COVID-19 procurements in Bengaluru Urban and Belagavi districts. A sum of ₹63.79 crore was spent in Bengaluru Urban district for the purchase of equipment. A sum of ₹42.19 crore was spent on the procurement of equipment in Belagavi district, said a release from the Chief Minister's office.

Chief Secretary to the government Shalini Rajneesh was present when the commission submitted its report. Earlier, Mr. Cunha, a retired High Court judge, had submitted a second interim report to the Chief Minister in April 2025.

"The commission has not released the reports in the public domain; however, considering the public interest involved in the subject, and the immediate need for reforms and transparency in public procurement, the government may consider releasing the reports at the earliest," the report said.

Siddaramaiah meets Kerala CM at Sivagiri Mutt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the recent verbal duel with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the demolition of illegally constructed houses in Kogilu Layout in Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday met Mr. Vijayan at Sivagiri Mutt, near Thiruvananthapuram, and held cordial talks.

The demolition of houses in Bengaluru has become a political flashpoint between Karnataka and Kerala after Mr. Vijayan termed the demolition drive an act of "bulldozer raj" and apparently compared it to the alleged "anti-minority" drive implemented by the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who was on a visit to Kerala, met his counterpart, Vijayan, at a programme at the Sivagiri Mutt and exchanged pleasantries. Both Chief Ministers were on the stage and enquired about the well-being of each other.

During the visit, Mr. Siddaramaiah paid his respects at the tomb of Sree Narayana Guru. On X, Mr Siddaramaiah said that he was delighted with the warm welcome he received from Gyanateertha Swami and the followers of the guru when he landed at the Thiruvananthapuram airport to participate in the programme to be held at the Sivagiri Mutt.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Sivagiri Mutt in Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking at the 93rd Sivagiri annual festival, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Sree Narayana Guru (1856-1928) was a philosopher, spiritual leader, and social reformer who led a reform movement against the injustices of the caste system in Kerala to promote social and economic equality.

The Chief Minister said Sree Narayana Guru was not just a saint. He was a movement for equality and morality.

The holy place should take steps to eradicate caste oppression and lead the society towards social justice. "The Sivagiri Mutt is not just a pilgrimage centre but a moral university of India's conscience. This is an intellectual and global movement of humanity," the Chief Minister said.

The programme was attended by Sachchidananda Swami, head of the mutt; AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal, Karnataka Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar and MLC B.K. Hariprasad.

Dharmasthala case: Temple seeks court permission to participate in case

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala temple, on Wednesday, filed application before the Belthangady court seeking permission to participate in the case.

The application was filed under Section 2 (Y) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita by the temple in its capacity as "victim" in the case related to alleged mass burial of bodies in Dharmasthala village. The application was filed by temple's spokesperson K. Parshwanath Jain.

In the submission before the court, senior counsel C.V. Nagesh said complainant Chinnaiah, who is arrested for perjury, had filed PIL before the Supreme Court seeking SIT probe. In this petition, the temple was named as respondent No. 6. The apex court rejected Chinnaiah's petition by referring to it as "Paisa Vasool Litigation". Chinnaiah then filed compliant with the Dharmasthala police on July 3.

Mr. Nagesh said the temple was the victim in the case and it has every right to participate in the proceedings.

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN - 628 004
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)
VOCPA E-Tendering Website : https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
NIT.No :07 / Breakwater / PD/2025-26 / D.4167 Date: 31.12.2025

V.O.Chidambaranar Port invites tenders (Online tenders) in "Two bid system" from interested, reputed, well experienced contractors fulfilling minimum qualifying criteria as stipulated in the tender.

Name of work	Construction of Breakwater at south side of Harbour entrance to maintain tranquility inside Harbour basin at V.O.Chidambaranar Port
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs.65,36,93,595/-** (Rupees Sixty five Crores Thirty Six lakhs Ninety three thousand Five hundred and Ninety Five only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 90,36,936/-** (Rupees Ninety lakhs Thrity six thousand Nine hundred and thirty six Only) as per cl 6.2 (section II) of Tender document.
Downloading of Tender from VOCPA online e-tendering website.	**31.12.2025 to 22.01.2026**
Pre-bid meeting	**07.01.2026** at 11:30 hrs (IST) through Video conference
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online	**22.01.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.**
Online Technical bid opening Date and time	**23.01.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.**
Period of completion	**Fifteen Months**
Validity of tender	**120 Days** from the date of opening of technical bid.

For further details, visit port Website: **www.vocport.gov.in & https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**
Ph.No : **0461-2372306** Email : **ce@vocport.gov.in**
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CHIEF ENGINEER

GOVT. OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DRAINAGE, CUTTACK, GANDARPUR-753003
***
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. CE-DR-CTC- 11/2025-26 email Id :- cedrainage@gmail.com

1.	Name of Works	:	Renovation of Petanalla from RD. 00 M to 2700M with Structures including Balance work of Phase - I in Cuttack City. (From RD 1930 mtr (Krusaka Bazar Bridge) to RD 2700 mtr (Bidanasi Bridge), Reach-I.
2.	Nature of Work	:	1. Earth work, Structural work & Stone work
3.	Total number of Packages	:	1 no. individual package.
4.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.2936.23 Lakhs
5.	Bid Identification No.	:	CE-DR-CTC/DD-CTC–11/2025-26
6.	Period of completion	:	18 (Eighteen) Calendar months.
7.	Availability of Tender On - Line.	:	30/12/2025, 16.00 hours to 15/01/2026, 17.00 hours.
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	:	16/01/2026 at 11.30 hours in the O/o the Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack.
9.	Class of Contractor	:	"Special" & "Super" Class.
10.	Bid Security/EMD	:	Rs. 29,37,000/- (To be remitted online)
11.	Cost of Tender paper	:	Rs.10,000/-
12.	Procurement Officer	:	Chief Engineer, Drainage ,Cuttack, Gandarpur-753003

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in
A-1213 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Engineering Wing, Office of the, Executive Engineer,
H & F W D Engg., Division, Fort Road, Dharwad - 580 008.
Phone : 0836 - 2955800, E-mail : eehfwedvndwd1@gmail.com
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

No: EE/H&FW Engg./Div/Dwd/Tender/Notification-PMABHIM&15th Fin/ 1452 /2025-26 Date: 31.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engg., Division, Dharwad invites tender from contractors registered in KPWD in double cover system as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000 through KPP Portal for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Est. amount (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Class of contractor	Period of completion (including monsoon)	Category of contractor
	PM ABHIM					
1	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Kusanal** in Athani Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
2	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Bedakihal-2** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	SC
3	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Hanchinal** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	SC
4	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Hunnaragi** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
5	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Janavad** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
6	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Bhoj-II** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-II (A)
7	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Mugali** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-II (A)
8	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Mallikwada** in Chikkodi Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
9	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Bada** in Hukkeri Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
10	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Gandigawada-1** in Khanapur Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	SC
11	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Muddekoppa** in Khanapur Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
12	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Tolagi** in Khanapur Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
13	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Asundi** in Ranebennur Tq., Haveri District	65.00	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
14	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Doddagubbi** in Hirekerur Tq., Haveri District	65.00	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
15	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Billahalli** in Ranebennur Tq., Haveri District	65.00	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
	15th Finance					
16	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Kankanwadi-1** in Raibag Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
17	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Mugalkhod-1** in Raibag Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General
18	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Sahupark** in Raibag Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT II (A)
19	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Devalapur** in Bailhongal Tq., Belagavi District	54.87	0.55	Class III & above	6 Months	SC
20	Construction of Sub-Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **Balekundri B.K** in Belagavi Tq., & District	54.87	1.09	Class III & above	6 Months	General

Calendar events: 1) Last date for receipt of tender: 07-01-2026 up to 16.00 hrs 2) Date of opening of technical bid: 08-01-2026 up to 16.30 hrs

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** Tenders shall be submitted electronically, EMD, Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested contractors shall register on the KPP platform to participate in this tender.

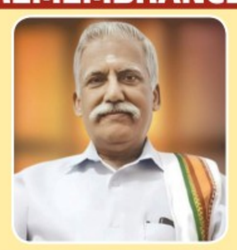
NOTE: 1) All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire Tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through newspapers and further changes in respect of this tender notification will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

DIPR/Dharwad/1048/Manipal/2025-26
Sd/ Executive Engineer,
H&FWD Engg. Division,Dharwad.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

3RD YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE



A. VIJAYAKUMARAN NAIR
(1953-2023)

Missing your laughter and your stories today. Your memory is our greatest treasure.

Inserted by
ABIJITH RAVI AND RAJESH NAIR

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

CORRIGENDUM

The Public Notice appeared in this newspaper on 31.12.2025, Page no. 6, Please read the Land Area as **01 Acre 04 Guntas** instead of 0 Acre 04 Guntas, in Sy. No. 21/1, Land situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner, **Fox Mandal & Associates,** Solicitors & Advocates, FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore 560025, Ph: +91 80 2559 5911

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that our client is proposing to purchase the Schedule property from **Mr. Mridul Mazumdar and Mrs. Rimpi Mazumdar.** If any individual or institute or corporate or firm has any subsisting right in respect of the schedule property, they are hereby called upon to substantiate such claim by presenting all details and documents relating thereto to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the publication of this notice. In the event of no such claims being presented or substantiated it shall be deemed that no such claim exists and the transaction will be concluded.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment bearing No.407, currently bearing E-PID No: 1829349708, situated on the Fourth Floor in Block J 'vasantha' consisting of Two Bedrooms with study with built up area of 1160 sq. ft including one covered car parking space in the housing complex known as Nandi Woods Phase I, Constructed in converted Sy. Nos. 67/1(P) and 67/2 of Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, along with 591.60 sq. ft of undivided share in the land thereon. The entire land is bounded on the:

EAST by : Sy. No.49 of Yelenahalli,
WEST by : Kammanahalli Village boundary,
NORTH by : Sy. No.50 of Yelenahalli,
SOUTH by : Private Property;

ANIL KUMAR SHETTY,
ADVOCATE, No.14, 1 ST CROSS, MADHAVANAGAR, BENGALURU-560 001.
e-MAIL: ssslawfirm@gmail.com
mob: 9845040272

Artist Tom Vattakuzhy says his artwork at biennale does not intend to hurt anyone's faith or sentiments

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Artist Tom Vattakuzhy, whose artwork displayed at the ongoing Kochi-Muziris Biennale has invited the wrath of the Catholic Church, terms the development 'unfortunate' while stating that he has never intended to hurt anyone's faith or sentiments.

"I was born into a Christian family, and most of my works have been inspired by the humanism seen in Christian values. This artwork is an extension of that thought process and not a distortion of *The Last Supper* as alleged by those opposing it," he said here on Wednesday. The work in question is part of the 'Edam' exhibition at the Garden Convention Centre on Bazaar Road, which brings together the works of 36 artists, reflecting a wide range of artistic practices and voices.

Tom Vattakuzhy

Church's opposition

Earlier, the Syro-Malabar Church alleged that the artwork distorted the masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, of Leonardo da Vinci. "We doubt whether it was displayed at the biennale intentionally to hurt the sentiments of the believers," it alleged. The Church said "freedom of expression remains vital to any democratic society. But it does not permit anyone to misrepresent religious beliefs."

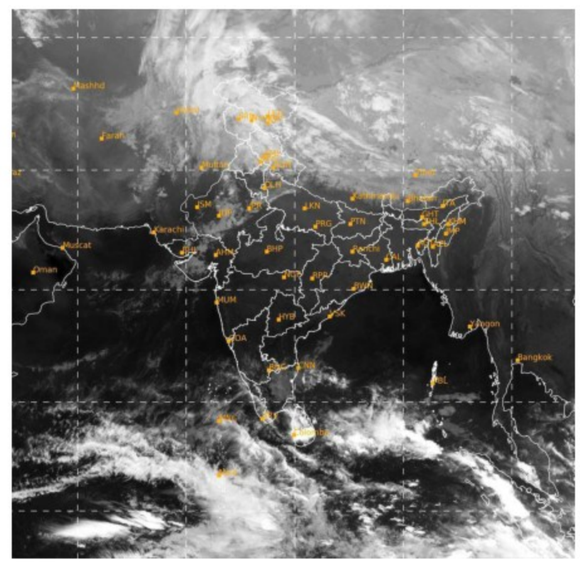
Mr. Vattakuzhy, whose work has been part of Kerala's cultural and literary landscape, said his work had been inspired by the play *Mridhavangiyude Durmruthyu* by writer C. Gopan and not based on the theme of *The Last Supper*. "The story itself is inspired by a poem written by Vyloppilli, which, in turn, draws from historical events. I have always been inspired by the works of masters based on the early Renaissance...," he said.

Curators' version

A statement by the curators of the exhibition, including K.M. Madhusudhanan and Aishwarya Suresh, pointed out that the artwork depicted Mata Hari, a historically documented figure and a convicted spy, in the moments preceding her execution by the French Army. Mata Hari was also an exotic dancer, and the use of nudity in the work was directly linked to this historical and narrative context. The painting by Mr. Vattakuzhy was therefore part of a long-established chain of artistic and literary interpretation that moved from history to poetry, from poetry to prose, and from prose to visual representation.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave conditions likely/ very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab. Dense Fog likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Punjab and Rajasthan.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	--	17.5	11.6	Kozhikode	--	33.2	24.0
Ahmedabad	--	29.5	15.3	Kurnool	--	30.7	16.6
Aizawl	--	25.4	9.2	Lucknow	--	16.9	8.0
Allahabad	--	16.2	8.0	Madurai	--	30.1	23.6
Bengaluru	--	30.1	17.4	Mangaluru	--	31.6	22.7
Bhopal	--	27.5	9.0	Mumbai	--	29.4	20.1
Bhubaneswar	--	22.8	11.4	Mysuru	--	30.0	14.0
Chandigarh	--	16.6	6.8	New Delhi	--	21.3	6.8
Chennai	--	28.7	24.1	Patna	--	18.3	9.4
Coimbatore	--	30.9	21.2	Port Blair	--	30.2	24.8
Dehradun	--	13.4	9.7	Puducherry	--	29.7	23.7
Gangtok	--	17.0	6.8	Pune	--	30.5	14.8
Goa	--	30.0	19.0	Raipur	--	28.5	12.1
Guwahati	--	23.6	15.0	Ranchi	--	26.1	7.0
Hubballi	--	30	13.9	Shillong	--	15.2	5.5
Hyderabad	--	31.9	13.8	Shimla	--	15.4	8.7
Imphal	--	22.8	9.9	Srinagar	--	7.6	2.3
Jaipur	--	23.4	11.4	Thiruvananthapuram	--	32.7	24.3
Kochi	--	29.8	24.4	Tiruchi	--	29.1	23.4
Kohima	--	14.0	8.5	Vijayawada	--	29.8	20.8
Kolkata	--	20.1	11.0	Visakhapatnam	--	28.0	20.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	..91	82	... 284	.....—	
Bengaluru	...8	..21	53	... 215	...142	
Chennai	.11	..15	37	... 261	...135	
Delhi	.12	..49	79	... 434	...361	
Hyderabad	.40	..14	40	... 109	...124	
Kolkata	.11	..31	42	... 166	...129	
Lucknow	...7	..44	47	... 223	...345	
Mumbai	.26	104	37	... 182	...149	
Pune	..—	..43	66	... 267	...201	
Visakhapatnam	.19	..70	60	... 308	...243	

Yesterday

Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 382 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Keralite priest, seven others get bail in conversion case

The priest was arrested following a complaint from members of VHP and the Bajrang Dal in Amravati, Maharashtra; the priest and his associates had travelled to Shingori for a prayer meet

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

A Keralite priest of the CSI Church, his family and other associates, who were arrested on charges of forced religious conversion at Shingori village in Maharashtra's Amravati district, got bail on Wednesday.

Sudhir William, originally from Thiruvananthapuram and based in Nagpur, travelled to Shingori for a prayer meet at the house of a resident, Ritesh Bondre, on Tuesday. According to a complaint filed by one Laxman Devidas Shede, a resident of Shingori, and members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajarang Dal, Mr. William allegedly urged the gathering to convert to Christianity.

Members of the VHP and Bajrang Dal who filed a complaint against a priest at Shingori in Amravati in Maharashtra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The FIR, accessed by *The Hindu*, said, "The resident of Shingori, Ritesh Bondre, had put up a gazebo in front of his house. Around 6 p.m., a person wearing a white dress was discussing Christianity. He was telling the people about converting to their religion and receiving a job and money in return. I also asked Ritesh about the guest; he replied, 'They came for my birthday.'"

Superintendent of Police of Amravati Rural Vishal Anand said, "Bail was granted to all eight accused in the morning after they were presented in the court for police custody... Investigations are underway."

Worrying pattern, says Kerala CM as arrest sparks outrage

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

The arrests of a Keralite CSI priest, his wife, and 10 others in Maharashtra on charges of forced religious conversion have sparked widespread outrage in Kerala, igniting protests and political uproar.

CSI Bishop Sabu Malayil Koshy, secretary of the CSI Bishops' Council, on Wednesday condemned the action, calling it a blatant violation of constitutional freedoms. "Fr. Sudheer has been serving in Maharashtra's Nagpur for the past 12 years, focussing on educating children and supporting local communities," he said.

Political leaders in Kerala too voiced strong concern over the incident. In a social media post, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the incident as deeply disturbing. "This follows a worrying pattern by the Sangh Parivar of targeting minorities to fuel polarisation, as seen earlier in Jabalpur. Such actions undermine constitutional freedoms."

Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan wrote to both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. "This incident raises serious concerns about the violation of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution..., " he wrote.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

Letter No : 6918 / **1st CORRIGENDUM** Date: 30/12/2025

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-35/2025-26** vide this office Notice No.6363 Dtd.28.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been follows:-

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.28.01.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification Dtd.27.01.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.29.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1914: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VIZAG

Tender Notice No. 41/2025-26/CE(GVMC)/SE (W-II)/EE-II(W)/DB, dt.31-12-2025.

Number of works : 01 Work, Value of works **Rs.306,95,20,085.00**
Starting Date : Dt.06-01-2026
Ending date : Dt.12-02-2026

Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o. the EE-II Cell No. 99480 95518 **For Commissioner**

Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001

No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26/1430 Date: 30.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short-Term Tender for Five Building works in Bengaluru, Ballari, Mandya, Kalaburagi, Koppala, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada & Vijayanagara Districts. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **01.01.2026, 05:30 PM** onwards

DIPR/CP/LC/4752/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru**

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 6784 / **1st CORRIGENDUM** Date: 23/12/2025

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-26/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.6160 Dtd.26.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.15.01.2026 at 5:00 PM.**
2. **Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any Dtd.13.01.2026 up to 2:00 PM.**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.16.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) will be intimated later.**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1906: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: helpdesk@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No. BMRCL/HR/0024/PRJ/2025 Dated: 31/12/2025

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT AND DEPUTATION RECRUITMENT

BMRCL invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel from CPSU/SPSU/ reputed organization for appointment to the following positions in the Project Wing. The appointment will be on "Contract / Deputation" basis only.

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	General Manager (HR)	01
	Total	**01**

Last date for receipt of online applications is **26/01/2026** and for receipt of signed application along with supporting documents is **04.00 PM on 30/01/2026.**

For details regarding eligibility, salary, application process and other details, please visit BMRCL website: **www.bmrc.co.in/Career Section**

Sd/-
General Manager (HR)

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB/TS-5/2025-26/5265 Dated: 29.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of Work: 1. Construction of additional one class room, Library and science lab play ground with swing, slides and other equipment, compound wall installation of rain water harvesting system, science lab equipment and interactive desktop computer with all in one printer for Govt. Boys High School building at Ijeri Village in Jewargi Taluka Indent No. 21846, 2. Construction of Govt Higher Primary School at Karkihalli village in Yadrami Taluka Indent No. 21965, 2) Head of account : **KKRDB for the year 2024-25,** 3) Amount put to tender: Indent No.21846, **Rs.79,91,856.59.** Indent No.21965, **Rs.1,00,74,819.42.** 4) Class of Contractor : Class-III and above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents : **30.12.2025 to 13.01.2026 up to 4.00 pm,** 6) Tender Form Fee : **as per KPPP Norms,** 7) EMD Fee: Indent No.21846 **Rs. 1,60,000.00,** Indent No.21965 **Rs. 2,00,000.00,** 8) Receipt of completed tender documents : **30.12.2025 to 13.01.2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid opening date: **14.01.2026 after 4.00 pm.** 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **16.01.2026 after 11.00 am.** 11) For more details contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Opp Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office Kusnoor road, Rajapur, Kalaburagi 12) website address : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/905/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26/ Sd/- **Executive Engineer,** Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Kalaburagi

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012, INDIA
EPABX : 2653800
E-mail: paribesh1@ospcboard.org
Website: www.ospcboard.org

No.: 23082 OSPCB-CL-MISC-0130-2023 Dt. : 31.12.2025

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Notice Inviting E-Tender for PURCHASE OF LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR R&D AND EC.FUNDED PROJECTS.

Online Bids through e-Tender portal **(https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for Purchase of Laboratory Instruments for R&D and EC FUNDED PROJECTS as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost
01	TCN No: 23084 Dt. 31.12.2025	PURCHASE OF LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR R&D AND EC FUNDED PROJECTS	Free of Cost

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date and Time
01.	Date of Publishing of tender	31.12.2025
02.	Bid document download start date	31.12.2025 (6.00 PM)
03.	Duration of downloading of bid document	15 Days
04.	Last date of download of Bid document	14.01.2026 (3.00 PM)
05.	Last date of Bid Submission Date	14.01.2026 (3.00 PM)
06.	All other Information	All other Information will be updated in https://tendersodisha.gov.in and www.ospcboard.org

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & condition are available in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.ospcboard.org**. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-2878: Sd/- **Member Secretary**

Karnataka Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.16/I, MILLERS TANK BED AREA, BANGALORE-560 052
Ph: 080-2226 0932 / 2209 6555 / 2209 6512
E-mail: admnkfcsc123@yahoo.com

No.KFCSC/ADMN/R/746/2025-26 Date: 31.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Limited conducted the document verification for 1:3 final list of candidates for the post of Senior Assistant, Senior Assistant(Accounts), Quality Inspector and Junior Assistant from date.27.11.2025 to 03.12.2025. The date of verification was re-scheduled for the eligible candidates who did not appear for the verification from date.19.12.2025 till 23.12.2025. But, few candidates did not appear even on the rescheduled date. Therefore, the date for document verification has been rescheduled once again from date.02.01.2026 till 05.01.2026 at KFCSC Head Office, No.16/I Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560052 from time 10:30 to 5:30. This will be the final call and there will be no further extension of time. The candidacy of the candidates will be cancelled if the candidates fail to appear for the verification on the re-scheduled date. KFCSC reserves right to fill up the posts from 1:3 final list eligible candidates who appeared for the verification. For more information visit KFCSC website https://kfcsc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
General Manager

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(Design)	BWSSB/EE(Design)/ AEE-2/316/2025-26 Dated: 29-12-2025 (Call-2)	1	Rs. 99.40 Lakhs / Rs. 1.98 Lakhs	08-01-2026 Upto 11.00 AM	09-01-2026 after 11.15 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Design)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(Kaveri - O & M)-1	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/ AE/2025/2514/2025-26 Dated: 30-12-2025 (Call-2)	1	Rs. 78,93,980/- / Rs. 1,60,000/-	08-01-2026 Upto 4.00 PM	09-01-2026 After 4.01 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

3	(WWM-H&A.V)-2	BWSSB/EE(WWM-H&A.V)-2/ PB-1/845/2025-26 Dated: 23-12-2025 (Call-2)	1	Rs. 28.75 Lakhs / Rs. 0.58 Lakhs	08-01-2026 Upto 3.00 PM	09-01-2026 at 3.30 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-H&A.V)-2

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Descent into farce

Ad hoc changes and poor implementation mar the ECI's SIR

The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across 12 States and Union Territories (UT) is fast descending into a farce. Take the case of West Bengal, where furore over elderly residents having to attend eligibility hearings in remote locations even after submitting their enrolment forms forced the ECI to order home verification. Or, the fact that it had to conditionally halt hearings of "unmapped" voters (those whose names or parents' names were not mapped with the 2002 SIR). Summons were in the form of software notices, but this software was not used in Bihar. An association of civil servants complained that this "*suo motu* system-driven deletion of electors from the draft electoral rolls in West Bengal in the ongoing SIR process [bypassed] the statutory role of the [Electoral Registration Officers]". The procedural chaos could have been avoided had the ECI not rushed into the SIR just before Assembly elections in States/UTs such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Its ad hoc use of software – the ECI junked its de-duplication software in Bihar and told the Supreme Court why it was not using it, but reportedly used it alongside another software to flag "unmapped" voters without proper protocol – is creating confusion and distress. The suspicion that the ECI is using an exercise of updating electoral rolls as a de facto citizenship screening exercise seems to be confirmed by the manner in which it is going about things.

There are inconsistencies and anomalies in the draft electoral rolls, many of which have been flagged by *The Hindu*'s data-driven investigations. The over 6.5 crore deletions, according to provisional numbers, suggest methodological problems in and poor implementation of the exercise. In Uttar Pradesh, provisional figures show that 2.89 crore names have been deleted, which could possibly explain why the ECI has postponed publication of the draft roll to January 6. In Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, which are relatively urbanised States with net in-migration of electors, 97 lakh and 73.7 lakh electors, respectively, have been taken off the draft rolls. That both States have since seen the furious inclusion of lakhs of names – added incomprehensibly as fresh additions in another procedural flaw – suggests that the enumeration phase was concluded haphazardly. This situation could have been avoided had the Court gone beyond limited interventions – which were salves for Bihar electors – to properly vet the new SIR procedure for constitutionality. It is still not too late for the Court to take note of the infirmities and to decide firmly in favour of the electorate. The fate of the very idea of universal adult franchise hangs in the balance.

Hold the centre

Bangladesh needs a leader who can keep extremists at bay

The death of Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's first woman Prime Minister, on December 30, closes one of the most consequential chapters in the South Asian country's turbulent political history. Zia, who entered politics after her husband, Gen. Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in 1981, played a pivotal role in ending the military dictatorship in 1990. She initially joined hands with Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina in the struggle to restore democracy, but their subsequent feud, the 'Battle of the Begums', came to define Bangladesh's politics for decades. With Zia's passing and Ms. Hasina, deposed in an uprising in 2024 and now in exile in India, Bangladesh is poised for a generational shift as it prepares to hold elections on February 12, 2026. But this transition is unfolding amid chaos and uncertainty. Tarique Rahman, Zia's 60-year-old son and the acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), returned after over 17 years of self-imposed exile. His immediate task is to unify the party's fractious factions and articulate an inclusive vision for the electorate. In a massive rally in Dhaka, he avoided the language of vendetta and stressed unity and inclusivity, but the BNP's violent past and Bangladesh's present instability cast a doubt on the prospects of any swift turnaround in the country's fortunes.

The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus has struggled to restore stability. Mobs continue to rule the streets, as evidenced by a recent lynching of a Hindu youth and arson attacks on two newspaper offices. Local reports also suggest that operatives of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh may be becoming active again, heightening security risks. Mr. Yunus has also banned the Awami League, one of the country's two largest parties, from political activity – this renders the legitimacy of the election deeply contentious. The BNP is the other major force but its leaders and operatives have been accused of extortion rackets and political violence. The National Citizen Party, which emerged from the 2024 student uprising, promising a break with traditional politics, has formed an electoral alliance with the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami. If the Jamaat, which sided with the genocidal Pakistani military in 1971, emerges as a major political player or a power broker after the elections, it would mark a seismic shift, with uncertain implications for Bangladesh's secular constitutional order. What Bangladesh needs is a leader who can break the cycle of chaos, rebuild public trust, restore law and order and keep fundamentalist groups at bay. The responsibility for rebuilding the centre of Bangladesh's political spectrum rests largely with Tarique Rahman and the BNP. Whether he can shoulder that burden effectively will shape the country's near future.

India's space programme, a people's space journey

S. Somanath

was Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He is now Distinguished Visiting Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and Adviser (Space Technology), Government of Andhra Pradesh

India's space journey has evolved beyond a string of spectacular missions. It has the national pulse and is a source of daily inspiration. In June 2025, when Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla displayed the Tricolour aboard the International Space Station (ISS) and spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it was a moment of pride for every Indian. The Prime Minister called it a "defining chapter" of *Amrit Kaal* ('era of nectar'), and for many, that moment felt like India's ascent was a part of their own heartbeat. It was not just science. It was identity being reshaped through vision and purposeful programmes.

That same spirit has been echoed earlier, on August 23, 2023, when Chandrayaan-3 made India the first nation to land near the lunar south pole. "India is now on the Moon," declared Mr. Modi – words which rippled through classrooms, villages and living rooms alike. India's lunar programme has been truly path breaking: Chandrayaan-1 (2008) confirmed the presence of water molecules; Chandrayaan-2 (2019) mapped the moon with high precision and prepared the ground for Chandrayaan-3 (2023), which achieved the world's first soft landing near the south pole. When the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover explored the lunar surface for a full moon day, this led children to draw depictions of lunar landscapes in notebooks, it left researchers feeling vindicated, and inspired citizens who saw India's story in space as also their own future.

India has become a trusted global partner in space. Over 400 foreign satellites have been launched aboard Indian rockets. In 2014, India became the first Asian nation and only the fourth in the world to reach Mars orbit – and on its maiden attempt, with the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan). The Aditya-L1 mission (2023), built through multi-institutional collaboration, is providing unprecedented insights into the sun's corona and its impact on space weather. XPoSat (2024) is studying black holes, while SpaDeX (2024) has demonstrated in-orbit docking for future space stations and lunar missions.

A new space vision

These milestones are reshaping policy, culture, and aspiration. The road map is bold: continuation of the Gaganyaan programme for human spaceflight, Chandrayaan-4 and 5 for deeper lunar exploration, a dedicated Venus mission, a Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2035, and an Indian human landing on the Moon by 2040. These are not distant dreams but national goals, aligned with the spirit of *Amrit Kaal*.

> India is not only an active participant in the space age but is also shaping it

The Prime Minister has called for building a pool of 40 to 50 trained astronauts for future missions. On National Space Day 2025 (August 23), he urged young citizens to see themselves as participants in India's human space programme. Gaganyaan, with an approved outlay of over ₹20,000 crore, is advancing steadily. Four Indian Air Force test pilots are undergoing training, and a series of uncrewed and crewed flights will culminate in India's first indigenous human space mission, presently targeted for 2027.

Space technology today is woven into the fabric of governance and daily life. Satellites deliver disaster warnings, guide fishermen, assess crop yields and insurance claims, enhance railway safety, and power the geospatial backbone of the PM Gati Shakti programme. Space is no longer a distant luxury but a democratic utility – accessible to every citizen.

At the same time, space exploration fuels Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, advanced research, and workforce development. Future-ready technologies in space operations autonomy, robotics, in-space manufacturing, surveillance and interplanetary travel are being developed, ensuring that India retains leadership in this strategic frontier.

The transformation of India's space sector is deliberate and ambitious. The opening of the field to private players, creating a thriving ecosystem of more than 350 startups building satellites, launch vehicles, and ground systems. The space budget has nearly tripled – from ₹5,615 crore in 2013-14 to ₹13,416 crore in 2025-26 – and has been augmented by nearly ₹5,000 crore in user funds. India's space economy, currently valued at $8 billion, is projected to grow to $44 billion in the years ahead, creating jobs, industries and innovations that orbit around this sector.

Inspiring the next generation

The Prime Minister has challenged the ecosystem to deliver five space unicorns within the next five years and to scale up annual launches, nearly ten-fold, to 50 a year. With private participation, India is advancing technologies related to semi-cryogenics, electric propulsion, quantum communication and in-orbit servicing.

Youth are at the heart of this vision. The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics hosted in India (August 2025) drew nearly 300 participants from over 60 countries, with Indian students winning medals. Initiatives such as the ISRO Robotics Challenge and Indian Space Hackathon/Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon are bringing school and college students into direct contact with rovers, satellites and rockets, building confidence that the laboratories and launchpads of tomorrow are theirs to claim.

At the policy level, the National Meet 2.0 held just before National Space Day produced 5,000-plus pages of documentation across 300 user interactions. This 15-year road map aligns every mission with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Global collaborations and leadership

Space has been consistently projected as a global commons, where India's leadership translates into shared progress. The South Asia Satellite has provided neighbours with communication capacity, while during India's G-20 Presidency in 2023, India announced a "G20 satellite" for climate and environmental monitoring with data shared with all nations. Collaborative missions such as NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment (TRISHNA) with CNES (French space agency), Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and India's participation in the European Space Agency (ESA)'s Proba-3 demonstrate India's rise as a global partner, guided by the ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ('the world is one family').

India's space journey is more than rockets and satellites. It is about a nation discovering new ways to see itself. The salute of Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the ISS, the landing of Chandrayaan-3, 350 startups from small towns designing space systems, young students competing in Olympiads, and satellites quietly serving national security and citizen services are all part of the same story.

In this *Amrit Kaal*, India is not simply participating in the space age. It is shaping it. With ambition, confidence, and purpose, Bharat looks to the stars knowing that the horizon belongs to it too.

The views expressed are personal

The U.S. tariff shock, India's pharma future

R.H. Pavithra

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In September 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping announcement imposing a 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical imports from October 1, 2025, saw India's pharmaceutical industry, which has long been hailed as the "pharmacy of the world", standing at a crossroads. The U.S.'s move, ostensibly aimed at bolstering domestic manufacturing, threatens to disrupt supply chains that have saved the U.S. health-care system billions of dollars while also fuelling India's export-led growth.

Yet, as tariffs ripple through global markets, India's dominance in generics offers a vital buffer, even as it underscores the urgent need for diversified partnerships and domestic reforms. With pharma exports to the U.S. alone reaching close to $9 billion in fiscal 2025 – a 14.29% surge year-on-year – the stakes could not be higher for India's $50 billion pharmaceutical sector, which contributes nearly 1.72% to the nation's GDP.

A global perspective

Global pharmaceutical exports, valued at over $850 billion in 2024, thrive on aging populations, chronic diseases, and post-COVID-19 pandemic innovation. Germany ($119.85 billion), Switzerland ($99.08 billion), and the U.S. ($90.30 billion) were lead exporters in 2023-24, while the U.S. ($212.67 billion in imports in 2024), Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and China top importers. The European Union (EU)'s €313.4 billion in medicinal exports in 2024, up 13.5%, reflects resilience amid geopolitical tensions. India, the third-largest exporter by volume, shipped $27 billion in 2023, rising to $30.47 billion in FY25.

Generics dominate, with 70% of exports to the U.S. and Europe. However, $5 billion in annual imports, mainly active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) from China (72% share), exposes supply chain risks. The sector's 10%-12% CAGR adds 0.5%-1% to GDP growth annually, bolstering forex reserves. The U.S. tariff, which has spared generics for now, targets branded drugs unless made domestically. India supplies 40% of U.S. generics, saving payers $219 billion in 2022. Yet, the market jitters were immediate with the shares of pharma majors falling and erasing millions in market cap. An escalation to generics could cut export revenues by 10%-15%, trimming GDP growth by 0.2%-0.3% in FY26. Some firms with over 30% U.S. exposure, face rerouting costs, regulatory hurdles, API inflation (up 5%-7%), and stalled research and development. This could spur "China-plus-one" strategies, redirecting exports to Africa and Southeast Asia, potentially raising India's regulated market share from 3% to 3.5% by 2030.

> For India, its strength in generics acts as a buffer, but diversification and reforms are a necessity

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation, effective September 22, 2025, provides domestic ballast. Drug and medicine rates dropped from 12% to 5%, with 36 essential items at nil, saving consumers $1.2 billion annually. Medical device rates fell from 18% to 5%, easing $5 billion in imports. No re-labelling for pre-September stocks minimises disruptions. Aligned with Ayushman Bharat, this boosts consumption by 8%-10%, insulating markets from tariff-driven hikes.

On eastern scale

Global trade pits western innovation against eastern scale. Under the U.S.-EU pact, EU exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products to the U.S. ($65.7 billion from Ireland in 2024), prioritises supply chain security. China's 2025 agreements, capturing 32% of Q1 global biotech deals, and $2.5 billion in U.S. molecule licensing in H1 2025, signal eastern strength. India's diplomacy has seen the signing of six memoranda of understanding (MoU) with Trinidad and Tobago in July 2025 (it includes cooperation in pharmaceuticals), a Singapore API pact, and Serum Institute's dengue treatment collaboration for low-middle-income nations. These, alongside iPHEX (the international pharmaceutical exhibition) could double exports to Africa significantly. With 35% of pharmaceutical exports U.S.-bound, eastern alliances could offset 20%-25% of tariff risks.

Bullish forecasts

Forecasts paint a bullish canvas: India's pharma market, valued at $50 billion in 2023-24, has a goal of reaching $130 billion by 2030 (11%-12% CAGR), with exports surging to $120-$130 billion. Globally, spending could hit $1.5 trillion by 2029, fuelled by biosimilars and precision medicine. India's API sector could grow to ₹1.82 trillion by 2030 ($22 billion), with PLI schemes reclaiming 20% domestic production.

Challenges such as IP disputes and API dependency persist, but resilience shines through initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). Under the PMBJP, a total of 16,912 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened (June 2025), with 2,110 medicines and 315 surgicals, medical consumables and devices under the scheme product basket.

Tariffs threaten affordability, with U.S. cancer therapy costs potentially rising $8,000-$10,000 for a 24-week course, mirroring India's 60% out-of-pocket burden. Generics, 80% cheaper, enable 20 million treatments yearly, though quality concerns and disruptions risk delaying surgeries by 15%-20%. PMBJP's oncology basket, cutting costs by 70%, proves that domestic buffers work.

U.S. tariffs risk causing shortages if India's 40% generic supply frays. India must leverage MoUs, invest $10 billion in APIs via PLI 2.0, and push WTO reforms. With global pharma eyeing $450 billion for India by 2047, collaboration in the form of east-west hybrids, innovation, and equitable access is key. Policymakers must diversify boldly, reform swiftly, and secure India's pharma supremacy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh

The passing of Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's first woman Prime Minister and long-time chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), marks the end of an era in the country's post-Independence political history.

Her decades-long rivalry with Sheikh Hasina was not merely personal but was also a continuation of an older ideological struggle over Bangladesh's identity and political destiny — one rooted in the competing legacies of Ziaur Rahman and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. For years, the persistent tension between Bengali nationalism and Islamist forces has prevented Bangladesh from fully realising its economic and democratic potential. Khaleda Zia's passing coincides with the return of her son, Tarique Rahman. He now faces the formidable task of charting an independent course for the BNP while playing a stabilising role in national politics.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

The concern now is less about legacy and more about the present vacuum. Bangladesh needs institutions that rise above personalities. Ensuring credible elections, judicial independence and space for dissent will honour her stated commitment to democratic norms. For neighbours, including India, a stable and plural Bangladesh is what matters. Quiet diplomatic engagement that supports democratic processes, not factions, is the most practical way forward at this sensitive moment.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

As the BNP confronts its biggest test, the nation itself faces a larger issue: how to steer its future away from the perils of mismanagement, restore institutional trust, and build a political environment worthy of its democratic inheritance. History will judge Khaleda Zia with complexity.

Vijay Singh Adhikari,
Nainital, Uttarakhand

China's signal

China has scaled up its intimidation of Taiwan and its claim rests on an unresolved civil war and contested history. In contrast, Russia's claim over Ukrainian territory rests on neither consent nor law. Yet, precedent matters more than nuance in geopolitics. If Ukraine's sovereignty can be partitioned under ongoing "peace" initiatives and sanctified by diplomacy under duress, China could cite time, power and persistence to justify reunification by coercion. The danger lies in the erosion of a core principle: borders cannot be changed by force. Ukraine, then, is not only defending its territory. It is defending a tenet whose collapse would echo in the Taiwan Strait and beyond.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Corrections & Clarifications

The Aravalli range geographically extends across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and does not include Uttar Pradesh as mentioned in a front-page report, "SC pauses its judgment on Aravalli, moots new panel" (December 30, 2025).

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Ensuring that the value of all lives is the same

Shubham Kumar
Academic, lawyer and public policy consultant

Every year, on New Year's Eve, a revelry results in a number of road accidents across India. Some of these result in fatalities.

John Donne wrote, "Each man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind." His words remind us that every death carries a weight greater than its statistics. Yet, when a family loses someone in a road accident, the language of justice turns into the language of arithmetic. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal multiplies income by an age-based factor, adds modest sums for love, care, and funeral expenses, and announces the result as 'just compensation'.

What begins as a legal exercise often ends as a moral puzzle. A doctor and a homemaker may lose their lives in the same accident, yet the law values their absence differently. The doctor's family receives several lakhs of rupees more than the vendor's, and the homemaker's loss is often measured in token figures. The problem lies not in the intent of the law but in its method. A welfare statute that was meant to bring relief has quietly absorbed the habits of the marketplace, where worth is measured by earning, not by being.

The arithmetic of loss

Section 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, empowers tribunals to award compensation that "appears to be just." To bring consistency, the Supreme Court in *Sarla Verma v. DTC* and later in *National Insurance Co. v. Pranay Sethi* introduced the multiplier method. The formula multiplies a victim's annual income by an age-based factor and adds fixed sums under standard categories such as loss of consortium, loss of estate, and funeral costs. The goal was fairness through uniformity.

In practice, uniformity has produced hierarchy. When a victim has no formal income, tribunals assign a "notional income," often a symbolic amount detached from real contribution. Children, homemakers, and informal workers are thus treated as marginal lives in the eyes of arithmetic. The *Supreme Court, in Kirti v. Oriental Insurance*, recognised unpaid domestic work as genuine labour and sought to correct the imbalance, but the structure remains tethered to income. In a system that counts only what can be measured, those who build, teach, care, and nurture are often valued least.

Article 14 of the Constitution promises equality before the law, yet a system that compensates the salaried more generously than the self-employed or the unwaged risks violating that promise. Equality cannot depend on economic visibility. Article 21, which protects the right to life with dignity, faces a similar tension. Dignity is intrinsic, not conditional. When compensation fluctuates with income, dignity becomes a privilege rather than a principle. The mason who built the city and the child who never drew a salary deserve recognition beyond their wage potential.

The contrast with other modes of transport is revealing. Under the Railways Act, 1989, the death of any passenger attracts a fixed sum of ₹8 lakh. Under the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, airlines pay a uniform amount for every deceased passenger. On the road, however, the law insists on knowing one's income before assigning value to one's life.

Even the notion of unlimited liability offers little comfort. Section 147 of the Motor Vehicles Act requires insurers to cover "the amount of liability incurred" for death or bodily injury. There is no statutory ceiling. In theory, the liability is unlimited. In reality, it remains bounded by income. The absence of a cap matters little when the base figure is drawn from an unequal scale.

The difficulty is not only procedural but philosophical. The American philosopher, Lon Fuller, described the inner morality of law as its duty to be coherent and fair. A formula that equates life with livelihood cannot satisfy either. The American legal philosopher and jurist, Ronald Dworkin, envisioned law as integrity, a system that treats every person with equal concern and respect. When tribunals attach greater value to some lives over others, they move from integrity to inequity. For the American philosopher, Martha Nussbaum, dignity lies in capability – the real freedom to live, love, and flourish. Income may enlarge these freedoms, but it cannot define them. The law, by tying worth to wages, narrows the meaning of both justice and life.

Towards a fairer formula

A fairer design must begin with a universal baseline. Every life should attract a fixed "dignity floor," an amount payable in every case of fatality or grievous injury, irrespective of income. Beyond that, income-linked additions can address actual financial loss, preserving fairness without eroding equality. The law should also carve out a separate category of "dignity damages" to recognise grief, companionship, and emotional harm. These amounts must evolve with inflation and social conditions. Equally important is the need for process reform. The Delhi High Court's Motor Accident Claims Annuity Deposit model, which integrates police, hospitals, and banks, shows that technology can deliver compensation swiftly and transparently.

Defenders of the current model often argue that compensation must restore dependents to their previous standard of living and that income is a neutral measure of loss. This reasoning fits private contracts better than public welfare. The goal of social law is not to mirror the market but to correct its distortions. A universal floor can guarantee recognition for all, while proportional increments can accommodate differences. In this balance between equality and equity lies the true meaning of 'just compensation.'

When road accidents occur, the law insists on knowing one's income before assigning value to one's life. This violates the promise of equality and dignity

A churning in Tamil Nadu

The DMK sits pretty amid a fragmented political landscape

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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The political situation in Tamil Nadu today offers a throwback to 1989. At that time, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) was split into two factions – one led by M.G. Ramachandran's wife, V. N. Janaki, and the other by Jayalalithaa. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress also chose to test the electoral waters independently in 1989. Adding to the fragmentation was the entry of a new political party, the Tamizhaga Munnetra Munnani, founded by thespian Sivaji Ganesan, a Congressman. This fractured political landscape ultimately benefited the DMK, which returned to power after a gap of 13 years.

Today, Tamil Nadu's political arena is once again overcrowded. Actor Vijay has launched the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK); actor Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi has secured sufficient votes to gain recognition from the Election Commission; the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), founded by actor Vijayakant and now led by his wife, Premalatha, remains in the fray; the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is striving to establish a foothold; and the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) stands divided between two factions – one led by Dr. S. Ramadoss and the other by his estranged son and former Union Minister, Anbumani Ramadoss.

Amid this fragmentation, the ruling DMK appears comfortably placed, as its principal rival, the AIADMK, is riddled with factionalism. Former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami commands the support of a majority of MLAs and MPs, while another former Chief Minister, O. Panneerselvam, leads a smaller faction with a handful of MLAs. However, Mr. Palaniswami, who enjoys a strong base in the Kongu region of western Tamil Nadu, recently suffered a setback when former Minister K. A. Sengottaiyan, another heavyweight from the region, left his camp to join actor Mr. Vijay's new party. In the Panneerselvam camp, P. Manoj Pandian, the MLA from Alangulam, has switched allegiance to the DMK.

The BJP is eager to stitch together a strong alliance against the DMK and has roped in the AIADMK led by Mr. Palaniswami. Although Mr. Panneerselvam met Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, triggering speculation that he could join hands with the DMK, the possibility of his aligning with the ruling party is ruled out, as it would be seen as a betrayal of the very anti-DMK sentiment that led to the birth of the AIADMK. Even DMK leaders do not harbour any expectations that he will join their alliance. Despite differences, stemming largely from oversized egos on both sides, Mr. Panneerselvam is likely to align with the AIADMK-BJP combine headed by Mr. Palaniswami.

This renewed fragmentation and the arrival of fresh players in an already crowded political landscape has emboldened a section of the Congress to demand a share in power. Girish Chodankar, the Congress in-charge for Tamil Nadu, made the demand public, but it was promptly rejected by the DMK leadership. Praveen Chakravarty, who heads the Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics, met Mr. Vijay, though it is unclear whether he had the blessing of the party high command. However, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president, Selvaperunthagai, castigated Mr. Chakravarty for the move.

Though Mr. Stalin and Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi shared a rare bond, and the DMK supports Rahul Gandhi's candidature for prime ministership during the Lok Sabha elections, the DMK is not prepared to entertain the Congress's ambition for a share in the State government. Senior DMK leaders do not believe their alliance would suffer any setback even if the Congress exits it. "The DMK and Tamil Nadu have borne the brunt of the BJP government at the Centre because we have the Congress in our alliance. But we are steadfast in our commitment to secularism and our support for the Congress. In fact, the BJP may tone down its criticism if we snap ties with the Congress," one of them said.

The situation remains fluid. The BJP will do everything possible to build a strong alliance against the DMK and its allies in Tamil Nadu. The DMK needs to worry only if Mr. Vijay, who has taken cues from MGR and Jayalalithaa and has described the DMK as an "evil force", and pointedly targets the DMK in his public meetings, decides to join the BJP-led combine. That, however, remains a distant possibility.

West Bengal SIR: Unusual patterns in deleted electors list

Several areas show abnormal deletions in categories such as gender and for reasons such as deaths

DATA POINT

Areena Arora
Nitika Francis
Devyanshi Bihani
Srinivasan Ramani

In West Bengal, like in Tamil Nadu and Bihar, more women than men were deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, an analysis of polling station-level data shows. While 58 lakh electors were deleted from the elector list, this analysis is based on the 56 lakh deleted electors for whom polling station-level data were available on the Chief Electoral Officer's website.

Nearly 4 lakh more women were deleted than men in the State, analysis shows. Notably, in over 850 polling stations, over 75% of those deleted were women, which hints at gender-bias in deletions. Seven other such anomalies were seen in West Bengal's deleted rolls data when analysed at the polling-station level. From excessive deletions to unusually high young deaths, here some of the key findings:

1. 17 stations show unusually high proportions of young deaths
2. 856 stations show high gender bias in deletions
3. 2,915 stations have abnormally high deletion rates
4. 2,423 stations report excessive deaths
5. 192 stations report excessive deletions for a single reason
6. 132 stations show suspicious patterns of "deceased" women
7. 2,463 stations show a high number of "absent" electors
8. 41 polling stations show gender bias in the "permanently shifted" category

In the lists provided below, the names of the polling stations, the name of the Assembly constituency, and the name of the district are mentioned in that order.

Unusually high young deaths

Pattern: Polling stations where more than 30 people were recorded as "deceased", with at least half of those deleted being under 50 years of age. In 17 polling stations, such an unusually high proportion of young deaths was reported. The average number of deletions due to deaths in one polling station in West Bengal was 30 and so the number was chosen as the baseline for this analysis.

Select stations:

- Krishnapally Samz Bhaban, Maniktola, Kolkata North: 48 total deaths, 79% under the age of 50
- Dagapur Tea Garden Primary School, Matigara-Naxalbari, Darjeeling: 34 total deaths, 68% under the age of 50
- New Line SSK, Madarihat, Alipurduar: 38 total deaths, 61% under the age of 50
- Harijan Jnanprakash Vidyalaya Ground, Kolkata Port, Kolkata South: 37 total deaths, 57% under the age of 50
- Gairkata R.R. Primary School, Madarihat, Alipurduar: 45 total deaths, 56% under the age of 50

High gender bias in deletions

Pattern: Polling stations where at least 36 women were deleted, with women comprising 75% or more of all deletions. Data show that there were 856 such polling stations. An average of 36 women were deleted per polling station and so the number was chosen as the baseline for this analysis.

Select stations:

- Bajitnagar Jahanara Khatun Smriti F.P. school, Deganga, North 24 Parganas: 40 total deletions, 95% were women
- Jaharpur F. P. School, Hariram-pur, Dakshin Dinajpur: 39 total deletions, 95% were women
- Elme Noor Barkatia High Madrasa, Amdanga, North 24 Parganas: 45 total deletions, 91% were women
- Rangamati F.P. School, Tapan, Dakshin Dinajpur: 45 total deletions, 91% were women
- Aushara Udgara C. R. K. Shikshaniketan, Raina, Purba Bardhaman: 42 total deletions, 90% were women

Unusually high deletions

Pattern: On average, 73 electors were deleted in each polling station in West Bengal. In 2,915 stations, more than thrice the average or over 219 electors were deleted.

Select stations:

- Sambhu Vidyalaya, Kolkata Port, Kolkata South: 732 deletions
- Sri Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Vidyalaya, Jorasanko, Kolkata North: 718 deletions
- Maulana Azad Urdu School, Kolkata Port, Kolkata South: 714 deletions
- Alliance Jute Mill Canteen, Bhatpara, North 24 Parganas: 704 deletions
- Meghna Jute Mills, Jagatdal, North 24 Parganas: 677 deletions

Excessive death reports

Pattern: Polling stations where more than 90 deaths – thrice the average number of deletions due to deaths in one station in West Bengal – have been reported. This pattern is observed in 2,423 stations.

Select stations:

- Shikarapur Tea Garden Prathamik Bidyalaya, Rajganj, Jalpaiguri: 236 electors were deleted due to deaths
- Huldibari Cha Bagan Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra, Madarihat, Alipurduar: 236 deaths
- Danguajhar T. G. New School, Rajganj, Jalpaiguri: 236 deaths
- Sodepur Girls High School, Behala Purba, South 24 Parganas: 206 deaths
- Huldibari Cha Bagan Prathamik Bidyalay, Madarihat, Alipurduar: 202 were deleted due to deaths

Excessive deletions for single reason

Pattern: In 192 polling stations, where at least 73 electors (average number of deletions per polling station) were deleted, 90% or more of deletions were for a single reason.

Select stations:

- Shalaban Jamdoba, Asansol Dakshin, Paschim Bardhaman: 208 deleted, 100% marked not found or absent
- Bhagaban Chandra Narada Bala Khatik Pry, Kasba, South 24 Parganas: 293 deleted, 99% marked not found or absent
- J. K. Nagar F. P. School, Galsi, Purba Bardhaman: 390 deleted, 99% marked not found or absent
- Bhagaban Chandra Narada Bala Khatik Primary School, Kasba, South 24 Parganas: 371 deleted, 99% marked not found or absent
- J. K. Nagar F. P. School, Galsi, Purba Bardhaman: 659 deleted, 99% marked not found or absent

High gender bias in death related deletions

Pattern: Stations where at least 30 voters were deleted due to death and at least 75% of those deleted were women. There were 132 such stations.

Select stations:

- Aandharu Primary School, Ratua, Malda: 31 deaths, of whom 85% were women
- Ula Kalsara F.P. School, Deganga, North 24 Parganas: 33 deaths, of whom 85% were women
- Lahugachh Junior Basic School, Phansidewa, Darjeeling: 34 deaths, of whom 84% were women
- Anantapur F. P., Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur: 32 deaths, of whom 84% were women
- Bilkumari Uchcha Vidyalay, Palashipara, Nadia: 33 deaths, of whom 83% were women

Excessive "absent" voters

Pattern: Stations where at least 100 electors were marked absent. There were 2,463 such stations. An average of 20 electors were deleted per polling station as they were absent and so five times that number was chosen as the baseline for this analysis.

Select stations:

- J. K. Nagar F. P. School, Galsi, Purba Bardhaman: 651 voters absent
- Sri Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Vidyalaya (217), Jorasanko, Kolkata North: 578 voters absent
- Sri Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Vidyalaya (223), Jorasanko, Kolkata North: 577 voters absent
- Sri Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Vidyalaya (216), Jorasanko, Kolkata North: 537 voters absent
- Shree Kishore Vidyalaya, Kolkata Port, Kolkata South: 531 voters absent

Excessive gender bias among relocated electors

Pattern: In 41 polling stations, all those who were deleted for permanently shifting out were women. An average of 25 electors were deleted per polling station for permanently shifting and so the number was chosen as the baseline for this analysis.

Select stations:

- Sahabanchak M.S.K., Baisnabnagar, Malda: 43 permanent relocation deletions, all women
- Baliyaghati Primary School, Suti, Murshidabad: 37 permanent relocation deletions, all women.
- Belpukur High Madrasha, Hariram-pur, Dakshin Dinajpur: 33 permanent relocation deletions, all women.
- Jaharpur F. P School, Hariram-pur, Dakshin Dinajpur: 33 permanent relocation deletions, all women.
- Durgapur Shishu Shiksha Kendra, Chanchal, Malda: 33 permanent relocation deletions, all women

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 1, 1976

BARC isolates and purifies curium-242

Bombay, Dec. 31: Small quantities of curium-242 – the heaviest man-made element prepared and isolated so far in India – have been isolated and purified at the Radio Chemistry Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, for the first time, according to the latest issue of Nuclear India.

Curium (element number 96) being four elements higher than the naturally occurring uranium (element number 92) is usually prepared starting with heavy element targets. At Trombay, indigenously prepared Americium-241 was irradiated with neutrons at the Cirus reactor in encapsulated containers. The intensely radioactive product was processed in glove boxes to separate curium-242 from Americium and a host of unwanted highly radioactive fission products. The final product, estimated as 30 micrograms of curium-242, was identified by its characteristic alpha energies of 6.11 and 6.07 MEV.

Small quantities of curium thus produced is useful in the study of its chemical behaviour, knowledge of which is essential for the recovery of its longer lived useful sister isotope curium-244, produced as a byproduct in significant quantities in power reactors. This in turn will serve as a starting material for preparation of still heavier transplutonium elements in future.

Curium-242 is a useful isotope as an alpha source of high specific activity (3,297 curies per gramme) and was in fact the first man-made element to land on the moon on September 13, 1967 through Surveyor V, for direct analysis of lunar soil by alpha scattering. With a heat output of 120 watts per gramme and a half life of 163 days, curium-242 is an excellent source for compact and reliable power sources for remote applications of short duration.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 1, 1926

New Governor for French India

Pondicherry, Dec. 31: M. Gerbinis, the Governor of French India stands transferred and in his place Monsieur Didelot, Lieutenant-Governor of Senegal is posted. M. Gerbinis will be leaving Pondicherry for Colombo by the 15th of January.

From Page One

Vodafone-Idea gets relief on AGR dues

"The AGR dues frozen as on 31.12.2025 shall also be reassessed by DoT (Department of Telecommunications) based on Deduction Verification Guidelines dated 03.02.2020/audit reports. The outcome shall be decided by a committee appointed by the Government and that shall be binding on both parties."

"The above steps will protect the interest of GOI stake of 49% in VIL, enable orderly payment of dues to Government of India by way of Spectrum Auction Charges and AGR Dues, ensure competition in the sector and protect the interest of 20 crore VIL consumers," the note said.

VIL did not have an immediate statement in response to the freezing. The firm said in a stock exchange filing in the evening that it didn't have an official intimation of the Cabinet decision from the government. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who made announcements on the Cabinet's decisions from the day's meeting, did not include this development in his prepared remarks.

Zia's passing leaves huge void, says PM Modi

"While her passing leaves an irreplaceable void, her vision and legacy will endure. I am confident that her ideals will be carried forward under your able leadership of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and will continue to serve as a guiding light to ensure a new beginning and the enrichment of the deep and historic partnership between India and Bangladesh," Mr. Modi said in the letter.

In his remarks, after the meeting with Mr. Rahman, Mr. Jaishankar echoed Mr. Modi's comments and said, "Expressed confidence that Begum Khaleda Zia's vision and values will guide the development of our partnership."

The meeting between Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Rahman on the Jatiyo Sansad premises, was the first by an Indian Minister with Mr. Rahman, who returned from London on December 25 after nearly 18 years of self-exile in London.

On Tuesday, Mr. Modi had condoled the demise of Zia, whom he met in June 2015 during one of his early visits to Dhaka as the Indian Prime Minister. Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury and Salahuddin Ahmed were the other senior members of the National Standing Committee of the BNP who were present when Mr. Jaishankar met Mr. Rahman. Mr. Jaishankar, accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, also met National Security Adviser (NSA) of Bangladesh Khalilur Rahman and Asif Nazrul, Law Adviser of the interim government.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the interim government of Nepal, Bala Nanda Sharma, also met Mr. Jaishankar in Dhaka before the beginning of the funeral prayer for Zia. Mr. Sharma had joined the Sushila Karki-led interim government as the new Foreign Minister of Nepal on December 26, 2025.

'Unsafe' water deaths hit 10; official dismissed

The deceased include a six-month-old child, who passed away on Wednesday, and six women. More than 100 people from Indore's Bhagirathpura area have been admitted to hospitals in the past one week after drinking water from a municipal supply line.

While the authorities are yet to release the official death toll, a senior officer in the district administration said that the figure has crossed 10.

In-charge sub-engineer Shubham Shrivastava of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department of the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) was terminated while zonal officer Shaligram Sitole and assistant engineer Yogesh Joshi were suspended on the instructions of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

"Till today, 7,992 houses were surveyed in which about 39,854 people were examined, out of which about 2,456 suspected patients were found, who were given first aid on the spot. 212 patients were admitted in hospitals, out of which 50 patients have been discharged. Currently, the number of patients admitted in hospitals is 162, and the number of patients admitted in ICU is 26," a statement from the office of Chief Medical and Health Officer said.

Three-member panel

The three member panel to investigate the incident is headed by IAS officer Navjeevan Panwar, and consists of superintendent engineer Pradeep Nigam and associate professor at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) Medical College Shailesh Rai. The panel will also investigate the delays in completing a tender issued in August for a fresh supply line in the area, a senior government official said.

Cabinet Minister and Indore-1 MLA Kailash Vijayvargiya termed the incident "unfortunate" and said the numbers of patients admitted to healthcare facilities were increasing constantly. "It was increasing yesterday (Tuesday) but has reduced today," he said.

IMC Commissioner Dileep Yadav told *The Hindu* that the three officials were responsible for clean water supply in the area but failed to detect the leakages in time.

Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh High Court also issued notices to the State authorities and sought a status report on the matter by January 2.

'No third-party mediation during Operation Sindoor'

Chinese Foreign Minister recently said Beijing helped ease India-Pakistan tensions; Trump has repeatedly said the U.S. mediated; MEA officials stress India's position on the issue has not changed

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday denied a statement by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that China had "mediated" an end to the India-Pakistan conflict in May, repeating its rejection of similar assertions by U.S. President Donald Trump over the year.

Though the Ministry of External Affairs did not put out a formal response to the speech by Mr. Wang where he had made the claim, officials said India's position against any "third-party mediation" has not changed.

Mr. Trump has repeated his claim of mediating between the two countries using trade deals as leverage more than 60 times in the past seven months, including during talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this week. Last week, the U.S. State Department gave White House official Ricky Gill its "Distinguished Action Award" for his contribution to "internal coordination and diplomatic outreach" during the India-Pakistan conflict this year.

United we stand: People from all walks of life take part in a Tiranga rally after Operation Sindoor in May 2025. FILE PHOTO

When contacted, a senior MEA official said that India has consistently held that the ceasefire on May 10 was requested directly by Pakistan and accepted by India through the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) channel, and no other country had played a role in the outcome.

"Please refer to our responses made earlier," said another official, referring to the MEA's statement on May 13 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone call with Mr. Trump on June 17, where Mr. Modi said that "at no point ... was there any discussion, at any level, on an India-U.S. trade deal, or any proposal for a mediation by the U.S. between India and Pakistan".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had however thanked the U.S., China and Saudi Arabia for their peace efforts at the time.

In his speech on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had praised China's peace efforts to end a number of conflicts.

"To build peace that lasts, we have taken an objective and just stance, and focused on addressing both symptoms and root causes. Following this Chinese approach to settling hotspot issues, we mediated in northern Myanmar, the Iranian nuclear issue, the tensions between Pakistan and India, the issues between Palestine and Israel, and the recent conflict between Cambodia and Thailand," Mr. Wang said, while delivering a keynote address at a symposium on the "International Situation and China's Foreign Relations" looking back at Chinese diplomacy in 2025. He also said that China-India relations "showed a good momentum" during the year, referring to Mr. Modi's visit to Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet and bilateral summit with China's President Xi Jinping.

Cong. MP raises query

Reacting to Mr. Wang's remarks, Congress MP and general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh criticised Mr. Modi for his "silence" on the issue.

"Given that China was decisively aligned with Pakistan [during Op Sindoor], Chinese claims of having mediated between India and Pakistan are concerning – not just because they directly contradict what the people of our country have been led to believe, but because they seem to make a joke of our national security itself," Mr. Ramesh said in a social media statement, adding that "the people of India need clarity on what role China played in the abrupt halt to Operation Sindoor".

150 kg of explosives seized in Rajasthan on New Year's eve

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Massive haul in Tonk included six bundles of safety fuse wire and 200 cartridges; two men arrested

The Rajasthan Police on Wednesday seized 150 kg of ammonium nitrate, used in industrial explosives, along with 200 cartridges and six bundles of safety fuse wire measuring about 1,100 metres from a car and arrested two persons in Tonk district.

The massive haul by the District Special Team on New Year's eve may have thwarted a terror conspiracy and averted a disaster during the celebrations.

Investigation agencies were working to determine the purpose for which the consignment was intended to be used, including for blasting at illegal mining sites in the Aravalli hills.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tonk, Mrityunjay Mishra, said the seized explosives were hidden in urea sacks in the car heading towards Tonk, and the vehicle was impounded.

The arrested persons were identified as Surendra Patwa, 48, and Surendra Mochi, 33, both residents of Karwar in Bundi district.

Team in-charge Om Prakash Chaudhary said the police were patrolling when they tried to intercept the car near Chironj village on National Highway no. 52 on suspicion. "The team followed the car when it did not stop. The accused left the highway and sped towards Chironj. We surrounded the car near the village and stopped it," the officer said.

'Accused got nervous'

Mr. Chaudhary said the two persons had become nervous on being questioned and tried to escape. The accused initially told the police they were carrying fertilizers, but a search of the car revealed the explosives.

Investigation was in progress to ascertain the source, destination, intended use and possible links of the seized explosive material.

Though primarily used in stone quarrying, ammonium nitrate is a highly sensitive chemical that can cause huge destruction. The ammonium nitrate fuel oil was allegedly used in the explosion in a car near Red Fort in Delhi on November 10, in which 15 persons were killed.

Couple beaten, burnt alive in Assam over witchcraft suspicion

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The victims were accused of bringing misfortune upon the village by practising witchcraft, say locals

A couple accused of practising witchcraft were burnt alive by a group of villagers in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on Tuesday night, the police said.

The deceased were identified as 43-year-old Gardi Birowa and Mira Birowa, 33, of No. 1 Beloguri Munda village in the district's Howraghat area.

A district police officer said the assailants set the couple's house on fire after injuring them with sharp weapons inside.

"We have launched an investigation to identify and arrest those involved in the crime, likely an outcome of deep-rooted superstitions," a senior police official said after visiting the site on Wednesday.

Local people said the victims were accused of bringing misfortune upon the village by practising witchcraft.

Assam has been grappling with the issue of witch-hunting for decades.

The police said witchcraft-related violence is punishable under the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention, and Protection) Act of 2015, apart from relevant Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Official records show at least 160 people were killed in witch-hunting incidents between 2001 and 2019. Most of these incidents were recorded in the districts of Chirang, Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Udalguri, and Sonitpur.

Decade after GMR's ouster, AAI to study Maldives request to run airport

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to study a request from the Maldives seeking assistance of Indian companies to manage its recently upgraded Hanimaadhoo International Airport.

The request comes more than a decade after the Maldives government abruptly terminated a contract with Indian infrastructure conglomerate GMR to develop the Male International Airport and evicted the company's staff from the island.

Earlier this week, the Civil Aviation Ministry wrote to the AAI saying that the request for assistance was made during the inauguration of the airport on November 9, 2025, by President Mohamed Muizzu to Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, who was present as a special envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A view of one of the terminals at the Ibrahim Nasir International Airport in the Maldives. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The AAI has been instructed to study the proposal for "engaging Indian companies for the management of the airport", a senior official from the Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The AAI manages 26 State government airports, in addition to owning 113 airports in the country. Thirteen AAI-owned airports are managed by private operators such as GMR, GVK, and the Adani Group, which has seven AAI airports under its purview, apart from Navi Mumbai.

India supported the redevelopment and expansion work at the Hanimaadhoo airport that has been operational since 1986 with a $800 million line of credit issued by EXIM Bank of India. Redevelopment work was contracted to an Indian company, JMC Projects, at a cost of $136.6 million. The upgrade features a 2,465-metre runway capable of accommodating an Airbus A320 aircraft and a new passenger building designed to handle 1.3 million flyers annually. The airport has been dubbed as a catalyst for economic growth in the northern region of the Maldives as well as for enhanced global connectivity.

The Maldives's request comes over a decade after a debacle that saw GMR's ouster from the island. In November 2012, the Maldives Cabinet cancelled a deal signed with GMR in 2010 for upgrading and operating the country's biggest airport. The $511-million deal was the country's biggest foreign investment project at the time and was declared void *ab initio* (having no legal effect from inception) with GMR given a seven-day ultimatum to leave the country.

Adani-run airport blocking mobile infra: telcos

Jagriti Chandra
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Telecom companies are sparring with the Adani Group and have sought the Centre's intervention over the latter's refusal to grant "right of way" (RoW) at the recently opened Navi Mumbai airport for deploying infrastructure to provide cellular services to air travellers, alleging "monopolistic arrangements" by the airport operator which has deployed an in-building network and has sought from telcos "extortionary charges" that "undermine competition and consumer choice".

Earlier a picture went viral on social media of a public display board at the Navi Mumbai airport informing passengers that mobile signals for Airtel, Vodafone and Jio may not be available at the airport and they could use the free airport Wi-Fi.

Monopoly move: The Navi Mumbai International Airport operator has sought nearly ₹92 lakh per month per telecom company. PTI

The airport operator has countered charges from telcos, and said that as the airport was a sensitive zone, frequent servicing, maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure was best managed by it, and, therefore, it had opted for In Building Solution (IBS) infrastructure.

"The Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited has declined to grant the necessary permissions and directed telecom service providers (TSPs) to mandatorily utilise a network deployed by it, at exorbitant and commercially untenable charges," the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) said in a statement.

It has written to the Department of Telecommunication seeking its intervention on the matter.

The airport operator has sought nearly ₹92 lakh per month per operator, aggregating to nearly ₹44.16 crore per annum for four operators.

Public entity

The COAI has demanded that as the airport qualifies as a public entity as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 the airport operator is statutorily obligated to grant Right of Way (RoW) permission in a "non-discriminatory and time-bound manner" for the installation of telecommunication infrastructure.

It further states that the Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited has conferred upon itself exclusive RoW rights under the guise of being a "neutral host" and asserted that such a grant of exclusive RoW or creation of "monopolist arrangements" for provision of RoW for the purpose of building the telecommunication network were not permissible under the law.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi remarked about this controversy on X and wrote, "Here comes the business of profit mafia. My way or the highway for public infrastructure? Should government agencies have not ensured that the airport operator ensure connectivity and passenger convenience?"

Accused in 2012 Pune blasts case shot dead

Press Trust of India
AHILYANAGAR

Bunty Jahagirdar, one of the accused in the 2012 Pune serial blasts case, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Shrirampur town in Ahilyanagar district on Wednesday, the police said.

"The motive behind the attack is yet to be ascertained," Ahilyanagar Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge said.

Jahagirdar was arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad for his alleged involvement in the Jangli Maharaj Road serial blasts case.

He was out on bail since 2023 in the case.

Vote theft taking place through electoral rolls, says Trinamool

Party delegation meets poll panel over SIR exercise; it highlights 'logical discrepancies' affecting approximately 1.36 crore voters, deployment of micro-observers, issue of physical hearings for senior citizens, migrant workers and other concerns

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Raising complaints: The Trinamool Congress delegation after meeting the Election Commission in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Launching a scathing attack on the Election Commission over the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress on Wednesday said "vote theft" was taking place through voter lists and not electronic voting machines (EVMs). The party would contest the final SIR list legally if it had discrepancies, it said.

Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee led the 10-member delegation that met the commission in a meeting that lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours. The party flagged the issue of 1.36 crore voters who had been marked for "logical discrepancies", and called for hearings, he said.

The commission reportedly asked the Trinamool to ensure that no booth-level officer (BLO), electoral registration officer (ERO), and other polling officials were threatened during the SIR process, failing which it would take strict action.

Mr. Banerjee said the delegation had raised a host of questions, but apart from two or three points, no clarity was reached on most of the 10-11 questions raised. "Queries on the SIR were repeatedly diverted to citizenship issues, while questions on deletions were met with procedural responses such as filling Form 7, without any concrete explanation," the Trinamool MP said.

"If it [the SIR] has discrepancies, why would we accept it? We would fight it legally," Mr. Banerjee said, when asked if they would accept the final electoral rolls for West Bengal after the SIR was completed.

One of the most important points highlighted by the delegation, he said, was "logical discrepancies" affecting approximately 1.36 crore voters, which could be divided into some sub-categories, including unreasonable age gaps between parents and children, discrepancies with grandparents' ages, name and surname mismatches, and address-related issues.

'No detailed list'

No detailed discrepancy list had been made public, Mr. Banerjee said.

Several such cases where documents had been submitted and marked "found okay" had been sent hearing notices anyway, he said. The EC told the delegation there might be technical flaws in the app, he added.

The delegation raised the matter of calling senior citizens for hearings, and asked why the order to ensure home hearings for those above 85 was issued only recently. All senior citizens aged 60 and above should be allowed home hearings, the party demanded. The EC, Mr. Banerjee said, indicated it would consider this.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar was trying to "weaponise" the electoral rolls, the Trinamool delegation claimed. The EC should clarify why many of the 58 lakh names missing from the draft list were Rohingya or Bangladeshi nationals as no credible data had been provided, the delegation stated. "While identifying and deporting illegal immigrants is justified, transparency regarding these numbers was demanded," Mr. Banerjee said.

"We also questioned the selective deployment of micro-observers in West Bengal," the Trinamool leader said, alleging an attempt to malign the image of Bengal.

The delegation also flagged what it claimed was the appointment of a third party agency named Data Mission for conducting surveys in Bengal. On hearing this, the CEC had said that he was not aware of such an appointment, and had suggested that it had probably been done by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer without the CEC's knowledge, Mr. Banerjee said.

Raising the plight of migrant workers who have been called for physical hearings, unlike in Bihar, the delegation demanded that hearings be held virtually.

"This is vote theft. Vote theft does not happen through EVMs. No other political party was able to point this out in other States," Mr. Banerjee said.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool was told to ensure its ground-level political representatives were not involved in threatening of any staff on election duty, sources in the EC told *The Hindu*, adding that the party had been warned of strict action against miscreants who tried to take the law into their own hands.

(From left) Rohit Ramesh, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd.; N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd.; N. Ram, Director, THGPPL; T. Udhayachandran, Tamil Nadu Finance Secretary; Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of THGPPL; and K. Venugopal, Chairman, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., releasing *The Hindu Year Book, 2026* in Chennai on Wednesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The Hindu Year Book, a comprehensive guide, out

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Year Book, 2026, a comprehensive source of reference for the year 2025, providing chronological, contextual, and factual information on key events that occupied public attention, brought out by the Special Publications Division of The Hindu Group, was launched in Chennai on Wednesday.

The book was launched by T. Udhayachandran, Finance Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL); N. Ram, Director, THGPPL; N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd.; K. Venugopal, Chairman, Kasturi and Sons Ltd.; Rohit Ramesh, Director, THGPPL; and Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, at the newspaper's head office.

Mr. Udhayachandran said *The Hindu* was inseparable from the lives of people in Tamil Nadu. He recalled that whenever the newspaper underwent layout changes, he would often be among the first to comment on them.

He said he frequently urged civil service aspirants to read the editorials of *The Hindu* to understand issues and take a stand. "A bureaucrat should not hold extreme views and should remain balanced. That is what *The Hindu* does," he said.

He recalled that when he was involved in designing school education curricula and textbooks, he would often cite the design of *Frontline*, a sister publication of *The Hindu*. He said *Frontline* had set a model with powerful photographs that captured attention and conveyed the message, even before the reader engaged fully with the text.

The year book draws from news reports and special articles published in *The Hindu*, in addition to select year-end overviews written specifically for the volume. The book is priced at ₹499, with a special launch offer of ₹399 for a few days. It can be purchased from publications. thehindu-group.com/bookstore/ or by scanning the QR code.

Army's animal contingent to debut at Republic Day parade

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

This Republic Day, Kartavya Path will witness a rare and stirring spectacle as animals of the Indian Army march in step, embodying endurance, sacrifice and India's unmatched high-altitude military capability.

According to the Army, for the first time ever, a specially curated animal contingent of the Remount & Veterinary Corps (RVC) will be showcased at the Republic Day parade, highlighting the indispensable role played by animals in securing India's most challenging frontiers.

The contingent will feature two Bactrian camels, four Zanskar ponies, four raptors, 10 Indian-breed Army dogs and six conventional military dogs currently in service. Together, they represent a unique blend of tradition, innovation and self-reliance within the Army's operational ecosystem.

Leading the formation will be the hardy Bactrian camels, recently inducted for operations in the cold deserts of Ladakh. Exceptionally adapted to extreme cold, thin air and altitudes above 15,000 feet, these camels can carry loads of up to 250 kg while traversing long distances with minimal water and feed. Their induction has significantly strengthened logistical support and mounted patrolling capabilities along the Line of Actual Control, particularly in sandy terrain and steep gradients, the Army added.

Rare spectacle: An animal contingent of the Remount & Veterinary Corps will be showcased at the Republic Day parade. ANI

The Army further informed that marching alongside them will be the Zanskar ponies, a rare indigenous mountain breed from Ladakh. Despite their small size, these ponies are known for extraordinary endurance, capable of carrying 40 kg to 60 kg over long distances at altitudes exceeding 15,000 feet and in temperatures plunging to minus-40 degrees Celsius. Inducted in 2020, they have served in some of the harshest terrains, including the Siachen Glacier, supporting logistics and mounted patrols that can cover up to 70 km in a single day.

Adding a dimension of aerial vigilance will be four raptors, employed for bird-strike control and surveillance, showcasing the Army's innovative use of natural capabilities to enhance operational safety and effectiveness.

A major highlight of the parade will be the Army dogs, often referred to as the "Silent Warriors" of the Indian Army. Raised, trained and nurtured by the RVC Centre and College in Meerut, these dogs play a vital role in counter-terrorism operations, explosive and mine detection, tracking, guarding, disaster response and search-and-rescue missions.

In line with the vision of *Atmanirbhar* Bharat and Make in India, the Army has increasingly inducted indigenous dog breeds such as Mudhol Hound, Rampur Hound, Chippiparai, Kombai and Rajapalayam. Their presence on Kartavya Path will underscore India's growing self-reliance in defence and the successful integration of native breeds into specialised military roles.

Shah holds meeting with BJP MPs, MLAs in poll-bound Bengal

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with Bharatiya Janata Party MPs and MLAs in Kolkata on Wednesday in preparation for the West Bengal Assembly election next year.

He reportedly asked them to spend more time in their constituencies. Both current and former MPs and MLAs attended the meeting, which was held in a private hotel.

According to reports, Mr. Shah indicated that adherence to his instructions could influence whether representatives get ticket or not in the election. He laid down clear guidelines to prepare for the high-stakes contest.

Even candidates who lost in the previous election were invited to the meeting.

The Home Minister reportedly wanted to understand their experiences and challenges during the last polls.

After the meeting, Mr. Shah addressed a BJP workers' conference at a city auditorium on Wednesday evening.

Bihar govt. approves shooting of over 37 films, series in State

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A policy has been formulated with the aim of creating a friendly environment for shooting movies

The Bihar government on Wednesday granted approval to carry out shooting of over 37 films, web series and documentary projects under the Bihar Film Promotion Policy, 2024.

The policy has been formulated with the aim to promote film and create a friendly environment for shooting movies in Bihar.

"Of the 37 projects, shooting for many projects is currently under way in Patna and other locations of different districts of the State," Art and Culture Department Secretary Pranav Kumar told presspersons in Patna.

'Open to any language'

"We have been working for the overall development of film shooting in the State. You know that films like *Johny Mera Naam* had been shot in Rajgir but with the passage of time, the situation changed. We want to promote the shooting of films in the State in the local language or in Hindi or any other language," he further said.

Mr. Kumar admitted that in Bihar there was a need to create an ecosystem for film shooting as mere words would not serve the purpose. He added that the government would have to provide good hotels, roads, security, locations and other facilities to producers and directors. "In order to streamline all these things, we are going to launch our website next week. The site will provide information with regard to the facilities being offered for shooting in Bihar," the officer said.

The places and locations having maximum potential for shooting will be identified and their 3D view and VR view will be posted on the website.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (अ.भा.आ.सं.), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sijua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -751019
DEANAC-22/2/2024-O/o DEAN ACADEMY/4322 Date: 31 Dec, 2025
ADVERTISEMENT OF PH.D PROGRAM 2025 AT AIIMS, BHUBANESWAR
Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for PhD Program 2025 at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.
NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 34
Details of Seats i.e. Departments, Code, No. of Seats, Eligibility criteria, Research Project, etc, are mentioned in the prospectus published on Institute Website:**www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in.** ***Candidates are advised to visit Institute website regularly for latest update. For any query please contact Academic Section, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (Email-ID: acad_rectt@aiimsbhubaneswar.edu.in).***
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING) SRM e-Tender No. T-2559/MSETCL/CO/ Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001474)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/22kV GIS at Suraksha Smart City, Vasai (East), Dist. Palghar under Vashi Zone, MSETCL Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in** The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **29.12.2025.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corp.
Kaushal Bhawan, EMI Campus, J-8A, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004
Notice Inviting Expression of interest (EoI) for
Mukhya Mantri Nari Shakti Kaushal Samarthya Yojana (MNSKSY)
Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) invites proposals from eligible organizations/agencies against Expression of Interest to undertake implementation of projects under Mukhya Mantri Nari Shakti Kaushal Samarthya Yojana (MNSKSY). The last date for submission of online proposal is 23-Jan-2026 till 17:00 hours and hard copy to RSLDC office by 30-Jan-2026 till 17:00 Hrs.
For further details of EoI and process of online submission, visit RSLDC website-**https://livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in/rsldc/#/home/dptHome.**
Date : 29-Dec-2025
Raj.Samwad/C/25/16774
Managing Director, RSLDC

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
Uppal Road, Tarnaka, Hyderabad – 500 007, Telangana,
https://www.iict.res.in
NOTICE
Last date for submission of online application form for Technician (1), GroupII(1) in the Dispensary and Catering Area as per CSIR-IICT Advt. No 05/2025 Dated.29.11.2025 has been extended from 30.12.2025 to **14.01.2026 (Up to 11:59 PM).**
For further details please visit IICT Website https://www.iict.res.in/CAREERS
All other terms and conditions mentioned in the advertisement shall remain same.
Sd/-
Controller of Administration

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil Lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: +91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403
web site : www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No: F 55 () PA/CE/DLB/SBM-2.0/SWM/Legacy_Waste/2025/83606 Date 26/12/2025
Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)
UBN No. DLB2526WLOB28774, DLB2526WLOB28775, DLB2526WLOB28776 DLB2526WLOB28777, DLB2526WLOB28778, DLB2526WLOB28779 DLB2526WLOB28780
Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, Directorate of Local Bodies for Bio Remediation of Legacy Waste (73.70 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 153 ULBs (Cluster-1 to 7) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 up to 29.01.2026
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (**http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the State; and LSG Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs 344.52 Crore**.
DIPR/C/19399/2025 State Mission Director, SBM (U)

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com
Notice for Site Visit
E-Tender Notice No. 42 for FY 2025-26 & 43 for FY 2025-26
Name Of work: "Appointment of a Contractor for the **Indrayani** river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the **PMRDA** region." & "Appointment of a Contractor for the **Pawana** river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the **PMRDA** region."
The site visit for above work is arranged on 06/01/2026 at 09.00 am. Onwards. Concern Bidders who wish to attend the site visit may please be present at PMRDA Akurdi office at scheduled Date & Time.
For any guidance please contact:
1. Vivek Vispute DE, PMRDA Mob. No. 9322514640.
2. Abhijeet Bhanap TUSPL Consultant Mob. No. 9890081319.
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

APPOINTMENT
VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY
MoPSW,GOVT.of INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE No.C1/Rect/ME/01/2026/,Dt.26-12-2025

1.	NAME OF THE POST	Marine Engineer (On contract basis)
2.	No. of Posts	1(One) (OBC)
3.	Consolidated Remuneration	Rs.94,000/- per month(Consolidate)
4.	Essential Educational Qualifications & Experience	a) MOT1st Class motor certificate issued under Merchant Shipping Act 1958. b)One year post qualification experience as Chief Engineer/ 2nd Engineer on board a foreign going ship.
5.	Upper Age Limit	40-58 Years of age
6.	Crucial date for determining eligibility	09-01-2026
7.	Walk-in-interview	09-01-2026 at 10.00A.M

For detailed notification may visit careers section of VPA website:www.vizagport.com
-Secretary

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2025-26/31933 - 46 Date : 30/12/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना/2025-26
निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत(रू.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Construction of Major Bridge & Bypass at Bandh Baretha to Uchain via Kheriya Mod Road. UBN: RRC2526WLOB01073	2089.39 Lakh	ई-604/25-26
Outer Development and other Misc. Civil works at Mahila Chikitsalaya, Jaipur. UBN: RRC2526WSOB01075	205.44 Lakh	ई-605/25-26

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। महाप्रबंधक

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING) SRM e-Tender No. T-2561/MSETCL/CO/ Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001478)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/22kV GIS at Kopri, Virar (East), alongwith LILO on Proposed 220 kV PGCIL (Boisar)- Vasai Line at 220/22kV GIS at Kopri – 2.28 km Dist. Palghar under Vashi Zone, MSETCL Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in** The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **29.12.2025.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

INBRIEF

DRDO carries out salvo launch of Pralay missiles

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out a salvo launch of two indigenous Pralay missiles from the same launcher on Wednesday. The test was held at around 10.30 a.m. off the coast of Odisha. The flight-tests were conducted as part of user evaluation trials. According to the Ministry of Defence, both missiles followed the intended trajectory and met all mission objectives, as confirmed by tracking sensors deployed by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. Terminal events were validated through telemetry systems on ships positioned near the designated impact points.

Vande Bharat sleeper train completes high-speed trial

Indian Railways on Wednesday announced the successful completion of the final high-speed trial of the indigenously manufactured Vande Bharat sleeper train. The trial was conducted on the Kota-Nagda section, during which the train achieved a top speed of 180 kmph. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also shared a video of the trial run on X. The trial involved a comprehensive assessment of ride stability, oscillation, vibration behaviour and other critical safety parameters. The 16-coach Vande Bharat sleeper rake used in the trial has been designed for long-distance travel.

Centre pre-publishes draft Rules for four Labour Codes

Public has been given 45 days' time to file response; Rules lay down provisions in workplaces where women do night shifts, and social security measures for gig workers; mandate 48-hours work week; defines workers, wages, gratuity, and bonus

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The draft Rules for the four Labour Codes, pre-published on the Union Labour Ministry's website on Tuesday, mandate 48 hours of work per week and lay down the measures to be put in place in workplaces where women work in night shifts. The Rules define workers, wages, types of employment, gratuity, bonus and social security of workers, including gig workers. The public has been given 45 days' time to respond to them.

The Rules for Code on Wages include 18 past Rules such as the Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1937, the Payment of Wages (Nomination) Rules, 2009, the Minimum Wages (Central) Rules, 1950, the Minimum Wages (Central Advisory Board) Rules, 2011 and the Equal Remuneration Rules, 1976. Under the new draft Rules, the minimum rate of wages will be fixed on criteria of the standard working class family, which includes a spouse and two children apart from the earning employee; an equivalent of three adult consumption units; a net intake of 2,700 calories per day per consumption unit; 66 metres of cloth per year; housing rent expenditure to constitute 10% of food and clothing expenditure; fuel, electricity and other miscellaneous items of expenditure to constitute 20% of minimum wage; expenditure for children's education, medical requirement, and recreation; and expenditure on contingencies to constitute 25% of minimum wage. While fixing the minimum rates of wages, the Union government will take into account the geographical area, experience in the area of employment, and level of skill required for working under the categories of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled.

The draft Rules say representatives from the unorganised sector will be part of the decision-making on social security measures. PTI

The Rules add that the Central government will constitute a technical committee for advising it on skill categorisation of occupation and so on, headed by the Director-General of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Employment. On fixing floor wage, the Rules have proposed a Central Advisory Board and it will take into account the minimum living standard, including the food, clothing, housing and any other factors considered appropriate by the Centre from time to time of the standard working class family.

Social security

The Rules for the Code on Social Security supersede 12 prior Rules, including the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950; Employees' Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1997; Payment of Gratuity (Central) Rules, 1972; Building and other Constructions Workers' Welfare Cess Rules and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Rules.

A National Social Security Board will be constituted with representatives of associations of unorganised sector workers and employers' associations of unorganised sector for the social security measures of unorganised workers. Five members from the gig workers and platform workers, on a rotation basis, representing the different types of gig workers and platform workers will be members of this Board.

They also propose that in every establishment where 50 or more employees are ordinarily employed, a creche for the use of children under the age of six years of employees is to be provided and maintained.

For night shift of women, the Rules have detailed guidelines to employers such as the consent of woman employee shall be taken in writing, and provision of adequate transportation facilities and closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance.

The Rules for Industrial Relations Code comprise the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946. They provide the details of trade unions' registration and functioning. They allow secret ballot for the verification of trade unions. The workers are classified as Permanent, Temporary, Apprentices, Probationers, Badlis, Fixed Term Employment and Casual under the Rules. Fixed term employment is defined as the engagement of a worker on the basis of a written contract of employment with the employer for a fixed period.

Himachal set to legalise cannabis cultivation

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh government is moving towards legalising and regulating cannabis cultivation, with projections indicating that a fully developed framework could generate annual revenues of ₹1,000 crore to ₹2,000 crore for the State.

"We are working on finalising the modalities of the policy, including rules and regulations surrounding the hemp cultivation I am hopeful that in a month or two it should be ready, which would then be approved by the State Cabinet," Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Mr. Sukhu said that for decades, cannabis has grown wild across the valleys of Kullu, Mandi and Chamba, often associated with illegal drug trade.

The proposed policy, however, aims to reposition the crop for its medicinal value, including pain management and anti-inflammatory applications.

"This strategic shift is designed to replace hemp's narcotic image with a productive identity. This can generate ₹1,000-2,000 crore annually once operational," he said.

Bank fraud case: ED to attach London property

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a provisional attachment order related to a property worth ₹150 crore located in a prime area of London, near the Buckingham Palace.

The property is being held under the beneficial ownership of Nitin Shambhukumar Kasliwal and his family members. He is the former chairman and managing director of S. Kumars Nationwide Limited, and is accused of cheating a consortium of Indian banks of ₹1,400 crore as per multiple first information reports (FIRs), the agency said on Wednesday.

The ED alleged that Mr.Kasliwal set up offshore trust and companies in many places including Jersey, and Switzerland.

Ban on oral formulations of nimesulide over 100 mg

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has banned oral formulation of nimesulide above 100 mg in immediate release form.

"Strengths below 100 mg or strengths above 100 mg in other types of release (such as sustained release, extended release) are not under this ban. Non-oral formulations like topical gels/creams or suppositories are also not banned," a senior Ministry official said.

Nimesulide is used for the treatment of acute pain.

Potential liver toxicity

Nimesulide is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for its pain-relieving, anti-inflammatory, and fever-reducing effects. It is a prescription medication primarily intended for short-term, second-line treatment (when other medicines have failed) due to concerns over potential liver toxicity.

The Ministry has banned the manufacture, sale and distribution of the oral formulations citing serious risks to health, the official notification, issued earlier this week, said.

"The Central government is satisfied that the use of all oral formulations containing nimesulide above 100 mg in immediate release dosage form is likely to involve risk to human beings and that safer alternatives to the said drug are available," the notification said.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, the Centre, hereby prohibits the manufacture, sale and distribution of the drug, with immediate effect," the notification said.

Fixed-drug combinations have gained widespread acceptance owing to their superior therapeutic effectiveness, reduced patient cost compared to single-drug therapies, and improved adherence.

According to the product characteristics summary, nimesulide is approved for the treatment of acute pain, symptomatic relief in painful osteoarthritis, and primary dysmenorrhea.

National drug survey to examine indigenous substance use patterns

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The upcoming round of the Union government's National Drug Use Survey (NDUS) will be conducted through 2026 and is expected to cover nearly 20 lakh individuals across the country to assess the extent and patterns of substance use and substance use disorders at the State and district levels, officials told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

For the first time, the survey will seek to document "indigenous forms of substance use and associated socio-economic and health concerns". Officials said there are several instances of communities in India using locally grown or prepared substances "with social sanction and ritualistic acceptance".

They added that the question of whether such use is as harmful as contemporary patterns of substance use is "worth exploring", noting that these substances may include various forms of alcoholic beverages, opium, and cannabis.

Awareness for peers: Students in Bengaluru take out a rally against drug abuse and drug peddling. PTI

The forthcoming survey will take place nearly a decade after the previous round conducted in 2017-18, which covered about five lakh individuals nationwide.

The 2025-26 survey will, for the first time, attempt detailed analyses of substance use among specific populations such as prison inmates, school students and those enrolled in colleges and other higher education institutions.

The upcoming round will also include studies on the feasibility of wastewater testing to assess community-level drug use, and will examine emerging trends related to the use of "new and rarer" psychoactive substances. Funded by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the survey is being conducted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Sampling methods

The sample will be drawn through two methods: a household survey and a respondent-driven sampling survey.

The household survey will cover 400 districts across all States and Union Territories and include men and women aged 10 to 75, covering about 4.4 lakh households and 17.6 lakh individuals.

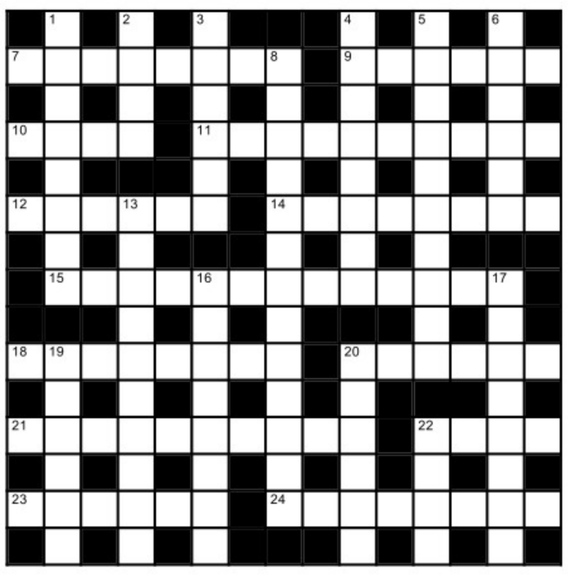
In addition, respondent-driven sampling will include around 2.1 lakh individuals drawn from drug-dependent populations in approximately 350 districts across the country.

TH CROSSWORD + 14680

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Hunt securing a Persian tiger in tunnels underground (8)
9 Jailer suppressing nationalist in country (6)
10 Former TN Chief Minister in back-to-back articles (4)
11 Some garbage collectors adding to unpleasant delays, per Spooner (10)
12 Empty vessels - one inside another (6)
14 One showing resistance joined in home managed by rector (8)
15 Late run in place that's between two extremes (7,6)
18 Images containing special updates on WhatsApp, say (8)
20 Thanks politicians restricting introduction of rate hikes (6)
21 Purposely adapted to absorb volume in excess (10)
22 Boy grabbing ring quickly (4)
23 Every second score in this debut of cricket commentator (6)
24 Gin packed in wooden carton (5,3)

Down

1 Support unit given to soldier protecting American money (8)
2 God of love keeps all men active basically (4)
3 Tumbler picked up regularly from the club lodge (6)
4 Flag bowler consuming time on hand (8)
5 Abba, scratching head, unclear about material left behind after a star's death (4,6)
6 Dog and black bird (6)
8 Something that has no limit - Pi, perhaps? (10,3)
13 Corrupt leader at bar negotiating about union (10)
16 Store procures our cereal boxes (8)
17 Official Tamil podcast? (8)
19 Local travel mostly arranged before noon (6)
20 Sporty star posing in these clandestine meetings with a pro (6)
22 Fraudulent activity's part of this campaign (4)

SUDOKU

8	6	1				5	7	9
		7			1	2	8	
		8		1	7	4	2	
	9	2	8	4		1		
	1	9	6			8		
3	2	5				9	1	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6748 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

S	P	E	L	L	S	■	P	A
A	■	X	■	U	■	L	■	T
O	R	C	A	■	C	L	O	T
A	■	M	■	K	■	S	■	O
U	N	I	S	O	N	■	T	I
G	■	■	■	O	■	I	■	E
R	I	G	H	T	W	I	N	G
■	■	■	O	■	■	T	■	■
■	M	O	M	O	■	S	H	A
A	■	E	■	H	■	O	■	E
F	L	A	M	B	E	A	U	■
G	■	A	■	R	■	G	■	T
B	U	C	K	I	N	G	H	A
D	■	E	■	I	■	T	■	U
I	N	R	O	A	D	■	I	M

P	A	N	D	I	T	■	■	■
T	■	I	■	R	■	■	■	■
T	H	E	S	P	E	G	■	■
O	■	P	■	A	■	■	■	■
L	E	S	S	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	Y	M	N	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	O	W	N	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	■	R	■	■	■	■	■
A	U	■	P	A	T	R	O	L
T	■	A	■	U	■	■	■	■
B	U	G	S	■	■	■	■	■
U	■	L	■	H	■	■	■	■
M	P	A	C	T	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	8	9	2	5	1	6	3
2	3	6	7	4	1	8	9	5
9	1	5	6	8	3	7	4	2
6	8	9	5	3	7	2	1	4
5	2	3	4	1	6	9	8	7
7	4	1	8	9	2	5	3	6
1	5	2	3	6	9	4	7	8
3	9	4	2	7	8	6	5	1
8	6	7	1	5	4	3	2	9

FAITH

A prayer to Lord Murugan

A guru advises his disciples hoping they will benefit from his counsel. But they fall prey to all kinds of weaknesses, and there are times when even the values taught by the guru are forgotten. Arunagirinatha, in his Kandar Anubhuti, says Lord Murugan should save him from the web of desires that threatens to trap him. Desires are indeed like a web, for once a person yields to temptations, he is caught like a fly in a spider's web, with no hope of escape, said So..So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse.

Arunagirinatha here recalls that Murugan destroyed the Krauncha mountain. This mountain was in fact a demon, who trapped and killed sages. This mountain was eventually killed by Lord Murugan. This incident is recalled here to emphasise that while desires may seem harmless, there are hidden dangers in desiring things. Hence Arunagirinatha's prayer is to Murugan, for Lord Murugan is *nittooran, niraakulan* and *nirbhayan*. He is a fearsome God (*nittooran*), but only to those inimical towards Him. He is the embodiment of joy, and He gives joy to those who have bhakti towards Him. He is *niraakulan* – one without confusion. He is fearless (*nirbhayan*), evident in the way in which He killed demons.

In a two-line verse, Umapathy Sivachariar gives the same idea. He says Sankaran is a God who is kind to His bhaktas, but is unkind to those who do not seek Him. Karaikkal Ammayar says Lord Siva is like gold to His devotees, but for those opposed to Him, He is like fire. Lord Murugan, likewise, is kindness personified where His devotees are concerned. But when it comes to those who defy Him, He is anger personified.

INBRIEF

Telecom subscriptions cross 100-crore milestone: TRAI

India crossed 100 crore Internet connections in November, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) announced on Wednesday, a significant milestone in India's connectivity landscape. As of November 30, India had a total of 100.36 crore broadband subscriptions, up from 99.81 crore the previous month. The one-billion mark also caps a period of intense growth and consolidation that has only in recent months showed signs of plateauing.

Tonbo Imaging India files DHRP with SEBI for IPO

Global defence electronics OEM Tonbo Imaging India Ltd. has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its proposed Initial Public Offering (IPO). The issue comprises an Offer for Sale of up to 18,085,246 equity shares of face value ₹2 each. The company is one of India's leading exporters of thermal imaging systems in FY25 . It has a global footprint across 24 countries.

Star ratings must for TV, LPG stove, refrigerator from Jan. 1

The government has made energy efficiency star-labelling mandatory on a host of appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, LPG gas stoves, cooling tower, and chillers from January 1. According to a gazette notification issued by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, the new regulation for energy efficiency star-labelling will also apply on deep freezers, distribution transformers and grid connected solar inverter. Earlier, star labelling was voluntary on these items. PTI

'Financial system at near-term risk via external uncertainty'

Sharp correction in U.S. equities could influence local equities, tighten financial conditions; financial markets stay susceptible to global spillovers

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Confidence vote: Though 2025 was challenging, world economy had proven to be more resilient than anticipated, says Malhotra. AFP

Though the Indian economy, despite persistent global challenges, continues to grow strongly on the back of robust domestic demand, the economy and the financial system face near-term risks from external uncertainties – geopolitical and trade related, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

"These factors could increase exchange rate volatility, dampen trade, reduce corporate earnings, and lower foreign investment. A sharp correction in U.S. equities could influence domestic equities and tighten financial conditions," the central bank cautioned in the report.

In his foreword, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the outlook for 2026 and beyond was shrouded in uncertainty as the contours of policies reshaping global economic landscape were fluid and untested.

"The global financial system in this challenging backdrop remains vulnerable to stretched valuations of risk assets, expanding public debt and growing interconnectedness among banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs)," he flagged.

"Alongside, the financial landscape is evolving rapidly, driven by profound technological advances and the continued rise of non-bank financial intermediation. While they bring immense opportunities, they are also adding new layers of risks such as the rise of stablecoins and private credit."

More resilient

Stating though 2025 was challenging as geopolitical conflicts, trade tensions, and persistent policy uncertainty cast a shadow over the global economy and the financial system, he said amid the developments, the world economy had proven to be more resilient than anticipated and the financial system remained steady.

He said the Indian economy and the financial system stayed robust and resilient supported by strong growth, benign inflation, healthy balance sheets of financial and non-financial firms, sizeable buffers and prudent policy reforms.

"Despite a volatile and unfavourable external environment, the Indian economy is projected to register high growth, driven by strong domestic consumption and investment. Nonetheless, we recognise the near-term challenges from external spillovers and continue to build strong guardrails to safeguard the economy and the financial system from potential shocks," he stated.

In the FSR the RBI said banks and NBFIs were healthy, bolstered by strong capital and liquidity buffers.

When FIIs flew from Indian stocks

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Enthusiasm of global investors over AI pushed them to markets like Japan, Taiwan.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) sold Indian equities worth ₹1.6 lakh crore in calendar year 2025, the most in about two decades, according to data from National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL).

As of December 2025, FIIs sold ₹22,611 crore worth equities. They have been net sellers in eight of 12 months. The year started with the strongest selling as a continuation of the correction in September 2024, recording a net sale of more than ₹74,000 crore in January.

Worst month

By March, foreign capital of about ₹1.16 lakh crore had exited the Indian stock markets. In February 2025, the benchmark NSE Nifty 50 returns dipped nearly 6%, making it the worst month of the year.

While markets did pick up after that in terms of monthly returns and negative returns moderated, foreign investor interest continued to stay weak barring a few weeks. This might probably be due to the big ticket IPOs like LG in the period post July 2025. However, the decline of over ₹1 lakh crore in the initial three months did not reverse in the rest of the year.

To be sure, FII's investment in Indian equity mutual funds increased, coming in at a net inflow of ₹2,245 crore. This was significantly better than 2024, when foreign capital withdrew ₹618 crore from Indian equity mutual funds. This may signify a slightly risk averse tendency of foreign capital when it comes to Indian market.

Experts said, the high price-to earning ratio with respect to quarterly earnings is one of the main reason behind the capital exodus. Currently, a stock is priced 22 times the earnings per share in India, one of the most expensive in the world. The decline was exacerbated by a depreciating rupee, which made dollar returns on capital market investments much lower than expected.

Indian markets have given close to no returns in dollar terms. Exiting FIIs further sped up rupee depreciation bringing the exchange rate to ₹91 a dollar by the end of the year.

Apart from factors like earnings and rupee depreciation, enthusiasm of global investors over AI has pushed them to markets such as Japan and Taiwan.

Sustainability of the AI-driven rally and potential profitability improvement among Indian firms are factors that will decide on the quantum and speed of the return of FII interest in India, said experts.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,221	0.64
US Dollar	89.88	-0.14
Gold	1,37,700	------
Brent oil	61.48	-0.87

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2239.70	25.00
Adani Ports	1469.80	8.60
Apollo Hosp	7042.50	52.50
Asian Paints	2769.50	11.20
Axis Bank	1269.40	23.40
Bajaj Auto	9343.00	61.00
Bajaj Finserv	2039.90	13.50
Bajaj Finance	986.80	-2.50
Bharat Elec	399.60	6.30
Bharti Airtel	2105.60	5.80
Cipla	1511.30	18.80
Coal India	399.00	1.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1271.40	5.60
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7312.50	120.00
Eternal Ltd.	278.05	0.95
Grasim Ind	2829.00	-12.70
HCL Tech	1623.30	8.10
HDFC Bank	991.20	0.30
HDFC Life	749.85	6.85
Hindalco	886.70	2.55
Hind Unilever	2315.90	25.70
ICICI Bank	1342.90	0.40
IntGlobeAvi	5059.50	41.50
Infosys	1615.40	-6.20
ITC	403.00	2.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	294.95	2.45
JSW Steel	1164.80	53.20
Kotak Bank	2201.10	48.40
L&T	4083.50	31.50
M&M	3709.20	48.90
Maruti Suzuki	16697.00	50.00
Max Healthcare	1045.10	4.30
NestleIndia	1288.00	13.90
NTPC	329.55	4.65
ONGC	240.38	5.70
PowerGrid Corp	264.60	4.25
Reliance Ind	1570.40	30.60
SBI Life	2034.90	39.40
State Bank	982.20	8.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	996.20	16.80
Sun Pharma	1719.70	-0.50
TataConsumerProduct	1192.00	13.00
Tata Steel	180.08	4.28
TCS	3206.20	-40.60
Tech Mahindra	1590.90	-13.70
Titan	4051.50	77.40
Tata Motors PV	367.35	5.60
Trent Ltd.	4279.00	71.30
UltraTech Cement	11784.00	79.00
Wipro	263.28	-0.37

Bagmane eyes ₹4,000 cr. IPO

Bagmane Prime Office REIT has filed a draft paper with market regulator to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) to raise up to ₹4,000 crore.

EPM: market access norms notified

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

This market access component would be initially allocated ₹4,531 crore over six years.

The government notified the first tranche of guidelines related to market access schemes, under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM). This market access component would be initially allocated ₹4,531 crore over the six years 2025-31, with ₹500 crore being allocated for the current financial year.

The overall EPM has been allocated a budget of ₹25,060 crore over the period 2025-26 to 2030-31. It is jointly implemented by the Department of Commerce, the Ministry of MSME and the Ministry of Finance, in coordination with Indian missions abroad, export promotion councils (EPCs), commodity boards, and other industry associations.

"We have substantially achieved the task of detailing out the guidelines, with one coming out today, and very shortly we will be coming out with one or two more in the next few days," Director General of Foreign Trade Ajay Bhadoo told the media. "In total there are 11 components of the EPM and our target is to be able to come out with guidelines for all 11 by January 31, 2026."

Finance market access

Under the market access component, exporters, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) would receive financial aid to take part, organise and travel to trade fairs, buyer-seller meets and reverse buyer-seller meets. "Under the Market Access Support Intervention, structured financial and institutional support will be provided for activities including Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, Mega Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs) organised in India and trade delegations to priority and emerging export markets," the Ministry of Commerce said.

As per Mr. Bhadoo, exporters organising BSMs would receive ₹5 crore per event as assistance and ₹10 crore per event for RBSMs.

Caps on assistance

However, the aid also comes with some caps to ensure a few players don't corner the bulk of the assistance, Mr. Bhadoo said.

So, financial assistance will be available for up to two delegates per firm, with a minimum delegation size of 50 participants with at least 35% mandatory participation of MSMEs.

"A firm can receive assistance to participate in up to three BSMs in a financial year and MSMEs would be eligible for four BSMs.

"This is to ensure there is diversification in who gets the assistance and it doesn't go to just a few players," he added.

The scheme also includes reimbursement support for air fare for eligible Indian delegates to travel for trade fairs and BSMs abroad with limits.

Govt.'s fiscal deficit at 62% of FY26 goal at end Nov.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of November stood at ₹9.77 lakh crore, which is 62.3% of the amount budgeted for the full financial year 2025-26.

Last year, at the same time, the fiscal deficit had stood at 52.5% of the budgeted amount.

The reason for this widening of the fiscal deficit is because capital expenditure has grown significantly in the April-November 2025 period, while tax revenue lagged.

The Centre's capital expenditure stood at ₹6.58 lakh crore in the April-November 2025 period, 28% higher than in the same period of the previous year.

Revenue expenditure, stood at ₹19.1 lakh crore in the first eight months of this financial year, 2.1% higher than in the same period last year.

Overall, the faster capital expenditure and relatively slower growth in revenue expenditure balanced each other out so total expenditure at ₹29.26 lakh crore at the end of November 2025, was 57.8% of the budgeted target for the full year, as compared with 56.9% at the same point in the previous year.

Total tax revenue stood at ₹13.9 lakh crore at the end November, 3.4% lower than in the same period of 2024-25. Non-tax revenue, however, was almost 21% higher a year earlier.

"The issue has been more on the tax front where tax revenue has been lower at 49% of budgeted amount compared with 56% last year," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda said.

DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION
Office of the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps
Kandaya Bhavan, 8th Floor, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009
Tel : 080-22220436, Email: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in

No. Comp/65/2025-26 Date: 31.12.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Correction of Tender Dates and Tender Conditions

It is hereby notified that, in continuation of the Tender Notification No. Comp/65/2025-26, dated 19-11-2025, issued for the **"Selection of Agency to provide IT Manpower"**, the **Addendum/Corrigendum** to the said tender has been published on 31-12-2025 on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Further, the **last date for submission of bids,** as specified in the aforesaid tender notification, is **extended upto 16-01-2026 till 5:00 PM.** Prospective bidders are requested to take note of the above amendments.

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/4764/2025-26

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

Invitation for Expression of Interest

C-DIT invites expression of interest (EOI) for the "Empanelment of Institutions as Examination Centers for the conduct of Computer-Based Test (CBT) **Outside Kerala"**

Last date for submission of EOI: **10.01.2026, 3.00 PM.**

The EOI should be submitted through **https://tender.cdit.org**

For details visit: **www.cdit.org.**

31.12.2025 Registrar, C-DIT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., CIRCLE-JHALAWAR
Room No. – 158, Ground Floor (Public Works Department), Mini Secretariat, Jhalawar
E-mail:- piu_jhalawar@rediffmail.com/sejwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No. :- 07432-233336
S. No. :- 1035 Date :- 19.12.2025

NIT No. 12/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A4842

Bids for **Construction of 08 Type-I Residence and Boundary Wall and Internal roads along with other essential infrastructure facilities at Jhalawar HQ** are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 PM, Dated 20.01.2026** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://erpoc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the Rajasthan and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 615.00 Lacs.**

S.No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2526WSO19388

(Mukesh Chand Meena)
Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Circle-Jhalawar

DIPR/C/19238/2025

ANDAMAN LAKSHADWEEP HARBOUR WORKS
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer (CSWD), ALHW, Sri Vijaya Puram) on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders from the reputed manufacturers of ELL/DELL crane for the work " Design, Fabrication, Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 20 Ton Capacity ELL Crane at Marine Dockyard in Sri Vijaya Puram (Recall)"

Tender No. ALHW/DCEM/TECH (C-69)1/2025 Dated: 19.12.2025, **Tender ID: 2025_ALHW_890555_1**
Please visit https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Sd/- EE (CSWD)

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବୁପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011. Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

No. e-tender //5848 // RWC// BAM// Dated.29.12.25 E-Mail / E-despatch

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 45-2025-26/BPR

1) The partial modification of Road works under IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING RD ROADS for the year 2025-26 vide above identification has been made as follows.

1.	Date of Availability of tender	:	**17.01.2026 to 31.01.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 24.12.2025 to 07.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**29.01.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 05.01.2026 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**02.02.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 08.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

O- 1892: **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur**

OIPR-25071/11/0193/2526

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବୁପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011. Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

No. e-tender //5860 // RWC// BAM// Dated.29.12.25 E-Mail / E-despatch

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 48-2025-26/BPR

1) The partial modification of Road works under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2025-26 vide above identification has been made as follows.

1.	Date of Availability of tender	:	**22.01.2026 to 05.02.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 29.12.2025 to 12.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**03.02.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 09.01.2026 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**06.02.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 13.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

O- 1890: **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur**

OIPR-25071/11/0190/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT- CHANDIKHOLE, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR - 754296, Tel.No.0671-2444488;Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com
Letter No. 5010 / Date:- 29.12.25

1st Corrigendum Notice

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. **Tender Online RCK-23/25** invited by this office vide Letter No.-**4208, Dt.-08.12.2025.** The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T.:- 1. Clause no.-06 of NIT Modified below :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last date & Time of seeking tender clarification		Date & Time of Opening of Tender			
						Technical Bid		Financial Bid	
		Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender RCK-23/25	From 17.12.2025 At 11.00 A.M To 02.01.2026 Up to 05.00 P.M	From 03.01.2026 At 11.00 A.M To17.01.2026 Up to 05.00 P.M	02.01.2026 up to 02.00 P.M.	17.01.2026 up to 02.00 P.M.	03.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	19.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later

All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.

O-1901 : **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur.**

OIPR-25129/11/0083/2526

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, ODISHA

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.EC-REV-PVC-0001-2025- 8783 /Elec. Dt. 30.12.2025

Sealed Single Stage two envelopes unconditional online bids are invited from PVC Card and Hologram suppliers on e-Proc website / portal on behalf of office of The Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha for "Printing and Supply of PVC Electors Photo Identity Card" and **"Manufacture & Supply of Holograms for PVC Electors Photo Identity Cards(EPICs)"**. The detailed Bid Document for Rate Contract can be downloaded from the website **https/www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 31.12.2025 at 05.00 PM.** However, this also can be viewed from O/o CEO, Odisha website **www.ceoodisha.nic.in** and Govt. of Odisha website **www.odisha.gov.in from 31.12.2025 at 05.00 PM.**

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha,
Unit-V, Behind Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-1

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, ODISHA
Behind Lok Seva Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001
****
Dated: 30.12.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

In order to bring more transparency in the tendering system, Office of the Chief. Electoral Officer, Odisha is going to adopt the e-Tender process through the Odisha Government Portal (**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**) for selection of supplier for **"Printing and Supply of PVC Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)"** and **"Manufacture and Supply of Holograms for PVC Electors Photo Identity Cards(EPIC)"**. Bidders / Suppliers may contact the following telephone nos. for further details.

Phone Nos. 9777223250, 8884974094

By Order of the CEO, Odisha

D- : OIPR-1219811/0005/2526

ISTANBUL

Turkiye steps up anti-IS searches nationwide, arresting 125 suspects

REUTERS

Turkiye on Wednesday detained another 125 Islamic State group suspects in a string of nationwide searches, a Minister said, following warnings that IS militants planned attacks over the holidays. Nearly 600 people have now been detained in anti-IS searches over the past week. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israeli govt. says it will ban 37 aid organisations operating in Gaza

AFP

Israel has said that 37 aid organisations will be banned from operating in Gaza starting on Thursday, unless they comply with its new guidelines requiring detailed information on Palestinian staff. Several NGOs have said the new rules will have a major impact on aid distribution in Gaza. AFP

SYDNEY

Sydney holds a minute of silence before fireworks bring in 2026

AFP

New Year celebrations took on a sombre tone in Sydney as revellers held a minute of silence for victims of the Bondi Beach shooting before fireworks lit up the harbour city. Pacific nations such as Kiribati and New Zealand welcomed 2026 first, followed by celebrations in Sydney, Seoul and Tokyo. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran pledges 'decisive' response if protests destabilise the country

AP

Iran's prosecutor general, Mohammad Movahedi-Azad, said on Wednesday that economic protests that had gripped the country were legitimate, but any attempt to create insecurity would be met with a "decisive response". His comments came after Mossad said that it was "with you on the ground" in a message to protesters. AFP

Bangladesh's Islamist party open to unity govt. after February vote

Opinion polls suggest Jamaat-e-Islami will finish a close second to Bangladesh Nationalist Party; it advocates sharia-based Islamic rule but stresses anti-corruption fight as a key shared agenda; curbs on it removed by interim govt. in August 2024

Reuters
DHAKA

A once-banned Bangladeshi Islamist party, poised for its strongest electoral showing in polls in February, is open to joining a unity government and has held talks with several parties, its chief told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

Opinion polls suggest that Jamaat-e-Islami will finish a close second to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the first election it has contested in nearly 17 years as it marks a return to mainstream politics in the predominantly Muslim nation of 175 million. Jamaat last held power between 2001 and 2006 as a junior coalition partner with the BNP.

Jamaat-e-Islami president Shafiqur Rahman says the Prime Minister will be picked from the party with the most seats. REUTERS

"We want to see a stable nation for at least five years. If the parties come together, we'll run the government together," Jamaat Ameer (President) Shafiqur Rahman said in an interview at his office in a residential area in Dhaka, days after the party created a buzz by securing a tie-up with a Gen-Z party.

Jamaat advocates Islamic governance under sharia law but has sought to broaden its appeal beyond its conservative base. Mr. Rahman said anti-corruption must be a shared agenda for any unity government.

The Prime Minister will come from the party winning the most seats, he added. If Jamaat wins the most seats, the party will decide whether he himself would be a candidate, Mr. Rahman said.

The party's resurgence follows the ouster of longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a youth-led uprising in August 2024. Ms. Hasina, whose Awami League party is now barred from the election, was a fierce critic of Jamaat, and during her tenure, several of its leaders were sentenced to death for alleged war crimes during the 1971 independence conflict with Pakistan, a war Jamaat opposed.

Jamaat had been banned from elections since 2013 after a court ruled its charter violated the country's secular constitution. An interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus lifted all restrictions on the party in August 2024.

Russia shows video of drone that 'targeted' Putin's home

Agence France-Presse
Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Ministry published a video on Wednesday of a downed drone that it said Ukraine launched at President Vladimir Putin's residence in northwest Russia this week – a claim Kyiv has branded a "lie".

The video, shot at night in the dark, showed a damaged drone lying in snow in a forested area. The Ministry said the alleged attack was "targeted, carefully planned and carried out in stages".

Russia has not said where Mr. Putin was at the time, claiming the attack was launched on the night of December 28-29 at Mr. Putin's home in the Novgorod region. His residences are normally kept a close secret.

The remains of a drone which was reportedly downed during an alleged attack on the Russian presidential residence. REUTERS

The U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) said on Tuesday it had not seen any "footage or reporting that corroborates the Kremlin's claims of Ukrainian strikes threatening Putin's residence in Novgorod Oblast".

Meanwhile, Russia's top general, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, said its forces were pressing forward in northeastern Ukraine and Mr. Putin had ordered expansion of territory Moscow calls a buffer zone there in 2026, Russian news agencies said on Wednesday.

Gen. Gerasimov's remarks follow Russia's vow to retaliate for what it claimed was an attempt to attack Mr. Putin's residence.

Myanmar's military regime seeks legitimacy through a sham election

NEWS ANALYSIS

Srinivasan Ramani

Close to five years since the February 2021 coup that overturned the Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy's (NLD) landslide electoral victory in the 2020 elections, Myanmar's military, also known as Tatmadaw, is now conducting a three-phase controlled election. The first phase was held on December 28 under tight security and saw sparse turnout. Subsequent phases are scheduled for January 11 and 25.

The NLD, whose exiles lead the National Unity Government (NUG) that oversees Bamar- dominated anti-junta militias called the Peoples' Defence Forces (PDF), was among the 40 parties – which accounted for 90% of the seats won in 2020 – that have been barred from contesting.

Others include the Arakan National Party in Rakhine and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy. The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), packed with former junta officials and active-duty officers, has deployed the largest number of contestants taking on what is considered just token opposition.

The junta's strategy is to repeat what it accomplished in 2010 when it installed its Generals as civilian rulers to run a government elected in a similarly restricted election. But the difference now is that this election is occurring amid a brutal civil war, where the junta has bombed its own civilian population and hostilities have resulted in thousands of deaths. Min Aung Hlaing's men have bare control over just about half the country. In at least 65 townships – close to a third of the total – elections are not being held, with the civil war still raging in many rural outposts. Yet, the junta has gone ahead with these controlled polls to win some legitimacy with the international community.

Members of Myanmar's Union Election Commission prepare a voting station a day before the start of general election. AFP

Military advances

Between 2010 and 2020, the reformist general Thein Sein had allowed for gradual inclusion of democratic forces in the polity – leading to international recognition and increased trade and investments – before Min Aung Hlaing pulled the plug through the 2021 coup, resulting in international isolation except for support from Russia, Belarus and a hedging China.

Under the 2008 Constitution, the military automatically holds 25% of all parliamentary seats, and with the USDP set to retain a dominant position through proportional representation, the Tatmadaw seeks to control the legislature and provide a legal framework for ending the emergency declared since the coup. This, it believes, will help deepen engagement with partners such as China and Russia.

Recent military advances have also encouraged the junta down this path. In late 2023, a rebel alliance of three ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) – the Three Brotherhood Alliance (TBA) – forced the junta's withdrawal from northern Shan State and Rakhine State, adding to blows from other long-term insurgent EAOs such as the Kachins, Karens and Karennis, aided by the PDFs' guerrilla warfare.

The TBA's advances came with tacit approval from Beijing, frustrated by the junta's inaction on scam centres near the China border that had caused massive losses to Chinese citizens. But once those scam centres were targeted, China pivoted – pressuring at least two TBA groups to sign ceasefires and surrender townships gained in Shan State, closing border trading routes to enforce compliance while stabilising the junta to protect its geoeconomic interests. One TBA member, the Arakan Army, has continued operations in Rakhine State, which shares no border with China, gaining significant territory except urban centres like Sittwe.

On the day of polling, junta jets and artillery attacked residential areas of Budalin township in Sagaing Region; the previous day, nine civilians died in similar attacks in Khin-U township. Besides Russian-supplied jets, the junta now deploys Chinese-made drones and motorised paragliders to attack rebel forces and civilians alike for area dominance. This brutality is unsurprising – Min Aung Hlaing faces ongoing proceedings before both the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, the latter probing genocide against the Rohingya.

Deeply unpopular

The sparse turnout suggests the junta remains deeply unpopular, and the continuing civil war guarantees instability. Yet, the resistance's lack of a centralised structure uniting Bamar guerrillas with EAOs under NUG command, combined with a shifting geopolitical landscape, suggests the junta will maintain its resilience. Besides Russian, Chinese and Belarusian support, Washington's stance has grown ambivalent under the Trump administration – U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in November that Myanmar was progressing towards "free and fair elections" and the Treasury recently lifted sanctions on firms close to the junta leadership, fuelling concerns that rare earth minerals may be trumping democracy promotion.

The overall result is strategic stalemate, with over 20 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and no end to the suffering in sight.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW-2/ 3

Dated:29.12.2025 **IFT No.: 34/2025-26.**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-2 and KW-3 through kpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works of coming under M.I sub-divisions SHIMOGA/ SORAB amounting from Rs.33.71 lakhs to Rs. 80.62 lakhs.. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 29.12.2025 to 12.01.2026 upto 17:00 hrs. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e- procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/07/01/1505

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5
E-mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com Epabx:+91-836-2214332/216,444
No.EO/DB/TN/e-Proc.T-128 HP/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (IV TH CALL)

Tenders have been re-invited from registered OEMs/Authorized dealers, for works at various campuses of the University. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. For more details please contact 0836-2214332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact Ph. No: **080-46010000.**

1	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications	03.01.2026	Up to 16.00 Hrs
2	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders	07.01.2026	Up to 16.00 Hrs
3	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid (single cover) & Technical Bid (two cover)	08.01.2026	At 16.15 Hrs
4	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid (two cover)	09.01.2026	At 16.00 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued online from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1045/2025–26 Sd/- **Estate Officer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-321(6)/25-26/4426-28 Date: 30.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-21 Dated: 12.12.2025 for **"Replacement of age old 66kV Pneumatic Circuit Breaker and C&R Panel of 66KV Capacitor Bank at 220KV R/S Hoody pertaining to Transmission (Op) Circle-South, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment including supply of 66kV Breakers and erection (including civil works) of all materials / equipment, testing and commissioning"- on percentage basis"**

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **01.01.2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
3rd Floor, **Koushalya Bhavana**, Bannerghatta Road
Dairy Circle, Bengaluru -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
e-mail: kvt.iti@gmail.com & e-mail: eoi-rfp@kaushalkar.com

No. KSDC/ADM/JOBFAIR in VIJAYAPURA/CR-59/2025-26 Dated:30.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has invited the tender for **"Request for Proposal(RFP) Notice for selection of Event Curation and Management Agency (ECMA) for conducting job fair yuva samvruddi mela at Vijayapura(Karnataka)** under two cover bid system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-2000 through e-procurement portal. Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for **"Selection of Event Curation and Management Agency (ECMA) for conducting job fair yuva samvruddi mela at Vijayapura(Karnataka)"** Tender Document Number: **KSDC/2025-26/SE0029** Tender Document is available for download from: **30.12.2025,** Last date for Proposal Submission: **15.01.2026.** The e-tender notification documents, tender processing fees & EMD details are available in e-procurement web portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Helpdesk– Phone No: +91 9240214000 / +91 9240214001 or you may also contact the office during working hours.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority and Executive Director-2
KSDC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4754/CCL/2025-26

Department of Archeological Museums and Hertiage
Karnataka Exibitation Authority Premises, Mysore-570010
Phone: 08221-2424673/74

No.: DAMH/CW/S.T-25/2025-26 Date: 22.12.2025

Tender Notification

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage invites the service tenders for the Providing the service of staff on an outsourcing basis to perform duty at offices, museums, and monuments (Indent No.DAMH/2023-24/SE0042) on the e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in accordance with the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Ordinance 1999-2000. Registered interested organizations agencies, companies can participate as per the conditions mentioned in the standard tender document.

Tender bid meeting will be held in the office of the Commissioner, Mysore **Date: 13.01.2026 at 11:30 Hours.** Tender Last date and time of any Queries for tender **Date: 20.01.2026 at 17:00 Hours.** Tender last date and time of submissions Date: **27.01.2026 at 16:00 Hours.** Tender opening date and time of technical bids **Date: 30.01.2026, 16:30 Hours.** Tender opening date and time of Financial bids Date: **31.01.2026, 11:00 Hours.**

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysore.

DIPR/MYS/1453/SA/2025-26

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU thehindu businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young world THE HINDU

RAISING THE BAR

'Shifting to T20s from ODIs wasn't easy but everyone was excited'

NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Shifting to T20s from ODIs wasn't easy but everyone was excited. We fought for this and happy how all things came together. Next is the WPL which is important for us. Hopefully, we play our best cricket and enjoy ourselves. The next six months are important, we want to keep working hard and raise the bar — Harmanpreet Kaur.

HARD WORK

I am improving and will become a better player for the team: Shafali

K.R DEEPAK

My work throughout the year has paid off. I will ensure that I don't make the mistake I did (on Tuesday) and get out early. ODIs and T20s are different games. In ODIs, you have to play along the ground. T20 is my favourite, day by day I am improving and I will become a better player for the team — Shafali Verma.

IN BAD SHAPE

Australian cricketer Damien Martyn placed in induced coma

REUTERS

Former Australian Test batsman Damien Martyn was rushed to hospital in an induced coma after being diagnosed with meningitis, media reports said on Wednesday. The 54-year-old, who played 67 Tests between 1992 and 2006 and 208 One-Day Internationals, was admitted on Boxing Day last week after falling ill while lying down.

TIGHT CONTEST

Navneet's strike helps SG Pipers pip Soorma Hockey Club

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SG Pipers edged out JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1-0 in a tightly contested Women's Hockey India League match in Ranchi on Wednesday. Pipers' captain Navneet Kaur's fourth-minute goal after she dribbled past two defenders proved decisive as the table-topper registered a second consecutive victory.

Dominant Women in Blue on the right track for T20 WC

Harmanpreet & Co. come up with a ruthless display to sweep the series against Sri Lanka; all-rounder Deepti, Shafali star for the home team; after disappointing in first four games the visiting side puts up a fighting performance in the final match

Happy bunch: The all-round performance by the Women in Blue proved too much for the Sri Lankan team. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

India-Sri Lanka T20I series in numbers

BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Shafali	5	241	79*	181.20	3
Hasini	5	165	65	125.95	1
Harmanpreet	5	130	68	131.31	1
Smriti	4	120	80	133.33	1
Imesha	3	106	50	107.07	1

BOWLING	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Deepti	4	5	3/18	6.06	-
Vaishnavi	5	5	2/24	6.26	-
Shree Charani	5	5	2/23	8.29	-
Kavisha	5	5	2/11	8.38	-
Renuka	2	4	4/21	7.57	1

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The big sisters showed no mercy.

It was the most ruthless display of dominating cricket from the Indian women in recent memory in the five-match T20I series against the neighbouring Sri Lanka that concluded at the Greenfield Stadium on Tuesday night. Yes, the Lankans put up a superb fight in that last game, as they narrowed the margin down to 15 runs - a big improvement after defeats by eight wickets, seven wickets, eight wickets and 30 runs.

It was a performance the young Lankan side could take heart from. Rumesh Ratnayake, the former quick who took over the reins at a difficult time and turned things around with a maiden T20I series victory in England and an unforgettable win in the Asia Cup final against India, must be pleased with that effort in what was his last game as the coach.

But, for that match, India had rested Smriti Mandhana and Renuka Singh. That the Women in Blue still won convincingly shows that their bench is getting stronger.

The absence of Smriti and the early departure of Shafali Verma, after three successive fifties, allowed Harmanpreet Kaur to play a captain's knock. And the top and middle-order's failure gave chances for the likes of Amanjot Kaur - she loves to play the rescuer's role - and Arundhati Reddy to highlight the importance of all-rounders in this Indian team.

Champion stuff

And it was a series to remember for the side's champion all-rounder. Deepti Sharma's gritty batting was hardly required, but she ended up as one of the leading bowlers of the series, which actually saw her become the leading bowler in women's T20I cricket. She overtook Australian seamer Megan Schutt when she trapped Nilakshika Silva lbw in the final T20I. That was her 152nd wicket.

The series also saw India blooding another young spinner. And Vaishnavi Sharma impressed, too. The left-armer from Gwalior is no product of the WPL, and she came through the junior and domestic cricket. That point cannot be overstressed: not every player's life changes with the rise of a paddle at the auction and there should be other stages to prove one's skills.

Vaishnavi has do a lot more though to stake a claim for a place in the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in England later this year. The Lanka series has shown the Women in Blue are on the right road in their preparation. And they did their reputation as the World champions - though in a different format -- no harm.

India's go-to player Deepti on top of the world

Putting her hand up: Deepti has always stepped up when the skipper Harmanpreet and the team needed her to. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Spin's face changes often in Indian women's cricket. From Poonam Yadav to Vaishnavi Sharma, there have been several spinners that donned blue over the last few years.

But there has been one bright smile that has remained a constant. Deepti Sharma's smile lit up the Greenfield Stadium on Tuesday night after getting Sri Lanka's Nilakshika Silva lbw. That was a crucial blow; the visitors' chase was still very much on at that stage despite the end of the big second-wicket stand between Hasini Perera and Imesha Dulani.

For the off-spinning all-rounder, it was another day in the office. Deepti is often entrusted with the task of getting India a crucial wicket or keeping the run-rate in check. She usually delivers.

The wicket of Nilakshika was special for another reason. That was her 152nd in T20Is, the one that made her the format's leading bowler, replacing Australian seamer Megan Schutt.

Deepti is glad about her latest achievement. "It always feels good when you reach such milestones," she said shortly after the game. "I always try to make an impact with my performance so that it will help the team."

The world saw the kind of impact she could have only a couple of months ago. She hit 58 and then took five wickets to help India win the World Cup final against South Africa. And she still holds the record, alongside Punam Raut, for the highest opening-wicket stand in women's ODIs – 320 against Ireland in 2017. She had struck 188 off 160 balls. Deepti is happy that India could follow up the World Cup victory with a commanding show against Sri Lanka in the T20I series.

Team effort

"This 5-0 result was a complete team effort," she said. "We had different match-winners in every game. It is nice that we have carried the momentum from the World Cup to this series though the format has changed".

World rapid and blitz: another good show by India sans title this time

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Podium finish: Arjun claimed two bronze medals while Humpy finished third in the rapid category. FIDE

Of the 14 medals on offer at the World rapid and blitz chess championships in Doha, India claimed three. That is not bad, but last year India had a title – Koneru Humpy had won the rapid championship, and this time around she had to settle for bronze.

Both the other two bronzes were won by Arjun Erigaisi. In the blitz event on Tuesday, he had topped the Swiss league, scoring 15 points from 19 rounds, a point more than Magnus Carlsen but lost in the semifinals to Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

Carlsen had finished second in the league from which the top four made it to the knock-out phase, in which he defeated Fabiano Caruana. It was indeed a superb show by the World No. 1 from Norway. He proved yet again that he was in a class of his own, as he bounced back after a defeat to Arjun in the ninth round, and won the final against Abdusattorov.

The 38-year-old Humpy had come close to defending her crown, but in the final round, a wrong bishop move destroyed her dreams. And that was in a game against another Indian – B. Savitha Shri, who had won the bronze in 2022 when Humpy won her first World rapid title.

After drawing that game – a win would have given Humpy the title – Savitha went on to finish fourth. The Indian women, however, disappointed in the blitz event, which was won for the third time by Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva, who defeated Anna Muzychuk in the final

The highest-placed Indian was Divya Deshmukh, who finished 22nd, while Humpy was 23rd.

Rashid Khan named Afghanistan skipper

T20 WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Ace spinner Rashid Khan will lead Afghanistan at the Twenty20 World Cup to be held from February 7.

Rashid's spin partner Mujeeb Ur Rahman and fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi have also been recalled to the 15-member squad for the tournament in India and Sri Lanka.

Also returning after a shoulder injury is fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq, who last played in a T20I for Afghanistan against Zimbabwe in December 2024.

Afghanistan beat New Zealand, West Indies, Australia and Bangladesh on its way to the semifinals two years ago.

Rashid's side placed in Group D alongside New Zealand, South Africa, the UAE and Canada in the 20-team tournament. It starts its campaign against New Zealand in Chennai on February 8.

Rashid. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The squad: Rashid Khan (Capt.), Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Mohammad Ishaq, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Shahidullah Kamal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdullah Ahmadzai.

One year, many stops, infinite entertainment

Dribbling the ball into the court of 2026, a journey of uninterrupted action beckons

ICC Men's T20 World Cup | **February 7-March 8** | India & Sri Lanka

Indian Premier League | **March-May**

FIFA World Cup | **June 11-July 19** | USA, Mexico & Canada

JANUARY
- Dakar Rally | **January 3-17** | Saudi Arabia
- Women's Premier League | **January 9-February 5**
- ICC U-19 Men's World Cup | **January 15-February 6** | Zimbabwe & Namibia
- Australian Open | **January 18-February 1** | Melbourne

FEBRUARY
- Superbowl LX | **Feb 8** | San Francisco

MARCH
- All England Open Badminton | **March 3-8** | Birmingham
- Formula One Season Opener Australian GP | **March 8** | Melbourne
- FIDE Candidates | **March 28-April 16**

APRIL
- The Masters Golf | **April 9–12** | Augusta, USA
- Thomas & Uber Cup | **April 24-May 3** | Horsens, Denmark

MAY
- PGA Golf Championship | **May 14–17** | Aronimink Golf Club, USA
- French Open | **May 24-June 7** | Paris
- UEFA Champions League Final | **May 30** | Budapest

JUNE
- Wimbledon | **June 29-July 12** | London

JULY
- Tour de France | **July 4-26**
- The Open (Golf) | **July 16-19** | Royal Birkdale Golf Club, UK

AUGUST
- Men's and Women's Hockey World Cup | **August 15-30** | Belgium & Netherlands
- Badminton World Championships | **August 17-23** | New Delhi
- US Open (Tennis) | **August 30-September 13** | New York

SEPTEMBER
- Billie Jean King Cup Finals | **September 21-27** | Shenzhen, China

NOVEMBER
- WTA Finals | **November 7-14** | Riyadh
- ATP Finals | **November 15-22** | Turin
- Davis Cup Finals | **November 24-29** | Bologna, Italy

DECEMBER
- Badminton World Tour Finals | **December 9-13** | Hangzhou, China

- ICC Women's T20 World Cup | **June 12-July 5** | England & Wales

commonwealth games GLASGOW 2026
Commonwealth Games | **July 23-August 2** | Glasgow

20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026
Asian Games | **September 19-Oct 4** | Nagoya, Japan

INBRIEF

Mumbai Marathon names De Grasse as ambassador

Two-time Olympic gold medallist sprinter Andre De Grasse has been named international event ambassador for the Tata Mumbai Marathon, set to take place on January 18.

Empire FC has it easy in BDFA B-division league

Empire FC beat ADE FC 4-1 in the BDFA B-division league championship in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The results: Empire FC 4 (Abhinand 15, S. Sachin Kumar 26, Muhammad 47, 48) bt ADE FC 1 (Vinu Vinod 40+3); Shooterz FC 2 (Fito 19, Meisnam Chourjit Meitei 38) bt Juno FC 1 (Balwinder Singh 73); Revive FC 0 drew with Bangalore Gunners FC 0.

KSCA selection trials for women on Jan. 4

The Karnataka State Cricket Association will hold on January 4 open trials to pick three / four teams for selection matches (senior women one day) to be held in the second / third weeks of January. Girls who are interested in participating are requested to report at 8 a.m. at the KSCA-B ground at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, in cricketing attire and with a copy of their birth certificate. Only those born after August 31, 2009 are eligible.

LIVE TELECAST

HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Utkarsh, Shikhar in regal touch as Jharkhand sails past Tamil Nadu

The two put on 201 to make short work of the target of 244; Aparajith's ton and Eden's six-hitting help Kerala pull off a heist against Rajasthan

HAZARE TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

An imperious batting display fetched Jharkhand its third consecutive win and handed Tamil Nadu a crushing nine-wicket defeat in the Vijay Hazare Elite Group A match at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Wednesday.

Openers Utkarsh Singh (123 n.o., 120b, 13x4, 3x6) and Shikhar Mohan (90, 108b, 9x4) scripted the win with their 201-run partnership as Jharkhand effortlessly chased down the target of 244 with four overs to spare. The match was reduced to 45 overs due to a wet outfield and dew.

Medium-pacer Shubham Kumar exploited the favourable conditions to dismiss the in-form N. Jagadeesan for a duck.

Opener S.R. Athish smashed three sixes in his 30-ball 33, but got out against the run of play. The trend continued as Pradosh Ranjan Paul (49, 64b 8x4) and B. Indrajith (48, 61b, 2x4) got out playing rash strokes at the wrong time.

Tamil Nadu lost wickets regularly and the final assault never came. Jharkhand medium-pacers Rajan Deep (one for 35), Shubham (four for 53) and Sushant Mishra (two for 51) mixed it up well as Tamil Nadu was bowled out for 243.

The pitch eased out in the second session and Tamil Nadu's hopes for an early breakthrough went up in smoke in the second over. Mohammed Ali, running in from third man, failed to latch on to miscued pull from Shikar off Govinth Ganesh. The batter, who was on three then, made Tamil Nadu pay dearly for the mistake as he along with Utkarsh put the Tamil Nadu attack to sword with rasping cuts, pulls and flowing drives. Utkarsh reached the century, but Shikar missed out on the landmark as he was out top edging a sweep off Pradosh.

Eden Apple Tom smashed an 18-ball unbeaten 40 (1x4, 5x6) as Kerala pulled off a heist against Rajasthan. Chasing a stiff target of 344, Kerala needed 19 from the final over bowled by Akash Singh. Eden nailed the win with his third six of the over as Kerala won by two wickets.

B. Aparajith's century (126, 116b, 12x4, 4x6) kept Kerala in the hunt after Rajasthan posted 343 for seven largely through Karan Lamba's unbeaten 119 (131b, 6x4, 4x6).

In top gear: Utkarsh's unbeaten 123 guided Jharkhand home. VIJAY SONEJI

HAZARE TROPHY – WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

Elite Group A (Ahmedabad): Tamil Nadu 243 in 45 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 49, B. Indrajith 48, Shubham Kumar 4/53) lost to Jharkhand 244/1 in 41 overs (Shikar Mohan 90, Utkarsh Singh 123).

Rajasthan 343/7 in 50 overs (Karan Lamba 119 n.o., Deepak Hooda 86) lost to Kerala 348/8 in 50 overs (Krishna Prasad 53, B. Aparajith 126, Eden Apple Tom 40 n.o.).

Karnataka 364/4 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 132, Devdutt Padikkal 113, Karun Nair 62 n.o.) bt Pondicherry 296 in 50 overs (Neyan Kangayan 68, Jayant Yadav 54).

Tripura 286/7 in 50 overs (Sridam Paul 52, Vijay Shankar 91,Venkatesh Iyer 4/44) lost to Madhya Pradesh 287/6 in 44 overs (Yash Dubey 105, Shubham Sharma 71).

Group B (Rajkot): Baroda 417/4 in 50 overs (Nitya Pandya 122, Amit Pasi 127, Krunal Pandya 109 n.o., Bhanu Pania 42 n.o.) bt Hyderabad 380 in 49.5 overs (Abhirath Reddy 130, Pragnay Reddy 113).

Jammu and Kashmir 63 in 20.4 overs (Akash Deep 4/32, Mukesh Kumar 4/16) lost to Bengal 64/1 in 9.3 overs.

Chandigarh 113 in 29.1 overs (Darshan Nalkande 4/33) lost to Vidarbha 114/2 in 22.3 overs (Atharva Taide 43 n.o., Dhruv Shorey 43).

Assam 308 in 48.4 overs (Sumit Ghadigaonkar 101, Sibsankar Roy 82, Vipraj Nigam 4/66) lost to Uttar Pradesh 291/2 in 42 overs (Aryan Juyal 150 n.o., Priyam Garg 52). UP won by VJD method.

Group C (Jaipur): Mumbai 444/8 in 50 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 46, Musheer Khan 60, Sarfaraz Khan 157, Hardik Tamore 53) bt Goa 357/9 in 50 overs (Lalit Yadav 64, Abhinav Tejrana 100, Deepraj Gaonkar 70).

Maharashtra 331/7 in 50 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 124, Satyajeet Bachhav 56, Ramakrishna Ghosh 47) bt Uttarakhand 202 in 43.4 overs (Sankar Rawat 56).

Himachal Pradesh 221 in 47.2 overs (Pukhraj Mann 76, Mridul Surroch 58, Sukhdeep Bajwa 4/17) lost to Punjab 223/4 in 36.1 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 84, Anmolpreet Singh 72, Naman Dhir 50 n.o.).

Chhatttisgarh 355/3 in 50 overs (Ayush Pandey 86, Amandeep Khare 83 n.o., Vikalp Tiwari 112 n.o.) bt Sikkim 126 in 34 overs (Gurinder Singh 47, Palzor Tamang 43, Dev Aditya Singh 4/25, Ajay Mandal 4/40).

Group D (Bengaluru): Services 271/8 in 50 overs (Irfan Ali 103, Nakul Sharma 72, Anshul Kamboj 4/43) lost to Haryana 275/3 in 43.1 overs (Ankit Kumar 144 n.o., Himanshu Rana 64).

Gujarat 283 in 47.4 overs (Aarya Desai 40, Jaymeet Patel 75) lost to Railways 287/6 in 48 overs (Sahab Yuvraj Singh 91 n.o., Ravi Singh 72).

Odisha 272/8 in 50 overs (Biplab Samantaray 72, Hritik Shokeen 4/27) bt Delhi 193 in 42.3 overs (Harsh Tyagi 43).

Saurashtra 254/7 in 50 overs (Harvik Desai 61, Chirag Jani 69, Ruchit Ahir 76) bt Andhra 180 in 47.2 overs (Ankur Panwar 5/27).

Plate (Ranchi): Nagaland 212 in 46.1 overs (Chetan Bist 61, Hem Chetri 52, Suraj Kashyap 5/23) lost to Bihar 214/2 in 37.5 overs (Mangal Mahrour 89, Piyush Singh 78 n.o.).

Mizoram 200 in 45.5 overs (Sahil Sharma 86, Lalroluahpuia Ngente 50, Bishworjit Konthoujam 4/34, incl. a hat-trick) lost to Manipur 205/2 in 34.1 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 110 n.o., Johnson Singh 64 n.o.).

Arunachal Pradesh 189 in 44.2 overs (Techi Doria 106, Akash Choudhary 5/26, incl. a hat-trick) lost to Meghalaya 193/4 in 23.1 overs (Akash Choudhary 42, Larry Sangma 51 n.o.).

AIFF asks clubs to confirm participation in shortened Indian Super League

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI & BENGALURU

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has requested all Indian Super League (ISL) clubs to acknowledge their participation in the shortened 2025-26 season of the league by Thursday.

M. Satyanarayan, deputy secretary general of AIFF, wrote a letter to all the clubs, requesting them to also confirm their preferred format in the league, so that the federation can request an exemption from the Asian Football Federation (AFC) accordingly.

According to the AFC rulebook, a team must play a minimum of 24 matches to be eligible to play in Asia (continental competitions)

The AIFF had previously met with the clubs on December 28 to discuss a solution for the 2025-26 season, where the teams questioned whether India's spots in Asia (continental competitions) would remain despite a shortened season.

The AIFF has now asked for confirmation about the exact number of clubs that will play this season and the format, so that the quantity of matches per club can be ascertained.

According to the AFC rulebook, a team must play a minimum of 24 matches to be eligible to play in Asia. But a shortened season would mean the number of matches will be much fewer, and the AIFF will thus seek special exemption from the AFC.

Bengaluru FC's Director of Football Darren Caldeira, however, did not seem chuffed by demand.

"While we all continue to work tirelessly towards a solution, asking clubs to commit to a league overnight despite there being limited clarity on commercial partners, broadcasters, AFC compliance, costs incurred seems a bit rushed," he said on X.

"The sudden sense of urgency is a little unexpected, given the absence of similar urgency over the past months. Our intent remains to support a timely resolution, provided there is adequate clarity to enable informed decision-making," he added.

Arsenal ends Aston Villa's winning run; Manchester United, Chelsea stumble

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal snapped Aston Villa's 11-game winning run with a dominant 4-1 win to open up a five-point Premier League lead as Chelsea and Manchester United wasted the chance to climb into the top four.

Wolves picked up just its third point of the season in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford, while Chelsea has won once in seven league games after being held 2-2 by Bournemouth.

Arsenal avenged its only defeat in the last 25 games in all competitions earlier this month at Villa Park to take a firm grip of the title race.

Doubts over Villa's ability to live with Arsenal and Manchester City over 38 games were realised as Unai Emery's men were blown away in the second half at the Emirates.

Neatly done: Zubimendi pokes in Arsenal's second against Villa. REUTERS

After a tightly-contested first 45 minutes in which Villa had its chances through Ollie Watkins, Arsenal cut loose. Third-placed Villa falls six points behind the leader.

United wasted another chance at Old Trafford to boost its chances of a return to the Champions League next season.

Joshua Zirkzee's deflected effort gave the Red Devils the lead, but Ladislav Krejci's header snapped Wolves' 12-game losing streak. Ruben Amorim's men remain in sixth, two points outside the top four, after failing to win for the fourth time in their last five home games.

Chelsea failed to lift the gloom at Stamford Bridge as Enzo Maresca's decision to substitute Cole Palmer was booed by the frustrated home fans.

Newcastle secured just a second away league win of the season but was made to sweat after a dream start to beat lowly Burnley 3-1.

A depleted Everton climbed into the top half of the table by getting the better of former boss Sean Dyche for the second time in a month to win 2-0 at Nottingham Forest.

It could have been worse for Forest had West Ham not blown the lead twice to draw 2-2 at home to Brighton.

The results: Arsenal 4 (Magalhaes 48, Zubimendi 52, Trossard 69, Jesus 78) bt Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 90+4); Burnley 1 (Laurent 23) lost to Newcastle 3 (Joelinton 2, Wissa 7, Guimaraes 90+3); Chelsea 2 (Palmer 15-pen, Fernandez 23) drew with Bournemouth 2 (Brooks 6, Kluivert 27); Manchester United 1 (Zirkzee 27) drew with Wolves 1 (Krejci 45); Nottingham Forest 0 lost to Everton 2 (Garner 19, Barry 79); West Ham 2 (Bowen 10, Paqueta 45+4-pen) drew with Brighton 2 (Welbeck 32-pen, Veltman 61).

THE HINDU GROUP

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- SPORTS FOR SOCIAL GOOD

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ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿ(ನಿ), ಜೆ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 2 ಭೀಮರಾಯನಗುಡಿ
eejbc2@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ಜೆಬಿಸಿ/ವಿ–2/ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ/ಯೋಶಾ/2025–26/982 ದಿನಾಂಕ. : 30.122025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ ಜೆ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 2, ಭೀಮರಾಯನಗುಡಿ ರವರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ;

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: works indent no: 1)2464CALL-2, 2)2689

1) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 91.79 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 38.11 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **2) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 1,83,600.00 ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 76,500.00 **3) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುವ ಅವಧಿ:** 01.01.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಯಿಂದ 08.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. **4) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 08.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. **5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 10.01.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಸದರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 15.01.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಸದರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 7) ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿ(ನಿ), ಜೆ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 2
ಭೀಮರಾಯನಗುಡಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/442/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025–26

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, NORTH EASTERN RANGE, KALABURAGI

District Police Bhavan, G.G.H. Road, Kalaburagi – 585105
Phone No.: 08472-263605, e-Mail ID: igpner@ksp.gov.in

No: STS/31/NER/CTRS/2025-26 Date: 30/12/2025

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ITMS SOLUTIONS FOR BIDAR DISTRICT WITH NECESSARY HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND NETWORKING.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, North - Eastern Range Kalaburagi invites tender in two cover system for selection of for **Supply, Installation and Maintenance of ITMS Solutions for Bidar District with necessary Hardware, Software and Networking** through Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned Public Procurement Portal. 1) Tender Reference No. and date: **No:KSP/2025-26/IND0477,** 2) Date of commencement of tender : **29-12-2025**, 3) Date & Time for Pre Bid meeting : **03-01-2026 11:00 hrs at Police Bhavan Kalaburagi,** 4) Last date & Time for submission of Tender through E- Procurment portal: **13-01-2026 at. 16:00 hrs**, 5) Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **15-01-2026 at 11:30 hrs**, 6) Tentative Date & Time of opening of Commercial bid: **19-01-2026 at 16:00 hrs**, 7) Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1,43,30,000/-**, 8) EMD Amount: Rs. 2,86,600/-, 9) Venue of pre-bid meeting, opening of tenders & address for communication: Office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police North - Eastern Range Kalaburagi Police Bhavan, Kalaburagi 585105

Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Inspector General of Police,
North - Eastern Range Kalaburagi &
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/Kalaburagi/910/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot

Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com Fax: 08354-235043

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1/CMIDP/Tender/2025-26/4455 Date: 23.12.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (One & Two Cover System)
(KW-1, 2 & 3 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below. Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1, 2, 3 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below. Tender Called for ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ (ಸಿ.ಎಮ್.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ) ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಧೋಳ, ಹುನಗುಂದ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾದ ತಲಾ **ರೂ.50.00 ಕೋಟಿ** ಮೊತ್ತದ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹುನಗುಂದ, ಮುಧೋಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸೇತುವೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

Scheme Under Work Indent No:

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 21962, 21991, 21992, 21993, 22043, 21932, 21956, 21959, 21974, 22193, 22194,22197, 22198, 22199, 22200, 22037, 22047, 22049, 22051, 22053, 22055, 21865, 21868, 21984, 21988, 21996, 22007, 22008, 22010, 22011, 22012, 22019, 22023, 22024, 22025, 22026

ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2 (ಎ) ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 21935, 21939, 21953, 21968, 22192, 22056, 21867, 21981, 21994, 21995, 22005, 22013

ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1 ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22196,

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22044, 21949, 21964, 22054, 21866, 21987, 22004, 22016, 22017, 22018

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 21934, 21871, 22020, 22022

ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ20.00 ದಿಂದ 80.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ. read as below.

Calendar of event

1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	Dt:29.12.2025 to 12.01.2026 at 5.30pm
2	Opening of Technical Bid Date (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.)	Dt:14.01.2026 at 11.00 am
3	Opening of Financial Bid Date	Technical Bid Approved.

Note:-More details can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. **Phone no: 08354-235042**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote

DIPR/Bagalkot/469/Deshpadepublicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರವಾರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ

(ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)

ಎಂ. ಜಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, **Website: www.kimskarwar.kar.nic.in**
Email id: directorkarwarmc@gmail.com Ph: 08382-226650, Fax No.: 08382-220364

ಸಂ:ಕ್ರಮ್ಸ್/ಎ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ–2/370/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.12.2025

ಕಾರವಾರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ Allied Health Sciences, ಉಳಿಕೆ ಸೀಟುಗಳಿಗೆ Walk in Admission ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **NO.DME/MCS/180/2025-26 Dated:30/12/2025**

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಇಎ ಮೂಲಕ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸುತ್ತಿನ ಸೀಟು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ನಂತರ ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅಲೈಡ್ ಹೆಲ್ತ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಕೋರ್ಸಿನ ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕಾರವಾರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಕಾರವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ,

(1) B.Sc In Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology – 30 Seats

(2) B.Sc In Medical Laboratory Technology – 30 Seats

ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 06/01/2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **Walk in Admission** ನನ್ನು ಮೇಡಿಕಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಭೋದನಾ ಕೋಶಡಿ–2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಇಎ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇರಿಟ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.

Sl. No	College	Region	Course	Govt. Quota	PWD	Balance	NHK	HK
1	KRIMS Karwar	NHK	B.Sc In Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology	30	1	29	27	2
2	KRIMS Karwar	NHK	B.Sc In B.Sc In Medical Laboratory Technology	30	1	29	27	2

UG AHS Seat Matrix 2025-26 (NHK)

Sl. No	College	Course	CAT-I	GM	2A	2B	3A	3B	SC	ST	Grand total
1	KRIMS Karwar	B.Sc In Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology	2	11	3	1	1	2	4	3	27
2	KRIMS Karwar	B.Sc In Medical Laboratory Technology	1	12	4	1	1	1	5	2	27

UG AHS Seat Matrix 2025-26 (HK)

Sl. No	College	Course	CAT-I	GM	2A	2B	3A	3B	SC	ST	Grand total
1	KRIMS Karwar	B.Sc In Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	KRIMS Karwar	B.Sc In Medical Laboratory Technology	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

ಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://krimskarwar.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಡೀನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಕ್ರಿಮ್ಸ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/889/25-26 dt. 31.12.2025

Department of Agriculture Marketing
Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Talikote

No:Amd.APMC(t) Dev/310/2025-26 Date:17.12.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Construction of Compound Wall towards Vijayapur Road in the Main Market Yard of APMC Talikote. **Amount put to Tender Rs. 36,23,156/- (Excluding GST). E.M.D. in Rs.72,470/- through e-portal.**

2) Name of Work: Construction of BT ROAD, C.C, DRAIN & INTERLOCK PAVER BLOCK in the Main Market Yard of APMC Talikote. **Amount put to Tender Rs. 2,04,83,357/- (Excluding GST). E.M.D. in Rs.3,07,255/- through e-portal.**

The above two development works approved under the annual auction plan for the Financial year 2025-26, Interested and eligible contractors are invited to submit bids through the e-procurement system (T-Portal) the last date and time for submissions of tenders is **16.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM.** For further details please visit the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Secretary **Sd/- Administrator**
APMC Talikote **APMC Talikote**

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/577/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-4/TENDER/2025-26/5682 DATE: 30/12/2025

Short Term Tender and E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short Term Tender and e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 17 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 88.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 400.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events: 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 12-01-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed.2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 13-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 19-01-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1558/KSMCA/2025-26

GUJARAT ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

GETCO

Registered & Corporate Office, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, VADODARA - 390 007
www.getcogujarat.com & https:www.nprocure.com

TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): TN-20: 2025-26

[A] PROCUREMENT: E-3078: - Purchase of under Frequency Panel for R&M works at Firm price basis.

[B] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ CIVIL -580:- Construction of pile foundation for 66kV Kubadthal-Bhuvaldi line, 3 Nos Tower Type PS+0/+3/+6 Near. Village Zanu, Tal. Dascroi. Dist Ahmedabad under Nadiad Circle.

[C] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-382, 392, 396, 397, 400, 401, 405, 406, 411/ UPRATING/ TL/ UG/ 66kV/ 132kV/ S&E:- (1) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132kV 2x(3+0)1Cx800sq.mm U/G cable laying 132kV LILO Chiloda from 132kV Ranasan Vijapur line.(From prop.AP 5/0(DD+3)cable termination tower to 132kV Chiloda SS(Ckt-1 &2-Route length-1.40Km) under KSY-II., (2) Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning for Conversion of (i) 66 kV Dhasa-Dahithara Line (ii) 66kV Damangar- Dahithara line (iii) 66kV Jesar – Khutavda line (iv) 66kV Otha - Dudhala 2 line (v) 66kV Dudhala 2 - Khutavda line (vi) 66kV Paliyad-Botad-1 Line (vii) 66 kV Paliyad-Hadadad Line (viii) 66 kV Paliyad-Turkha Line (ix) 66 kV Turkha-Sanali Line (x) 66kV Dhasa-Gadhali line & (xi) 66kV Gadhali-Gadhada line with DOG Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of DOG Conductor with Higher Ampacity) of Amreli Circle., (3) Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of (i) 66kV S/C Line from 66kV Bapodar substation to 66kV Gosa substation and (ii) 66kV S/C line from 66kV Bapodar to 66kV Mahiyari Substation on turnkey Basis under Kisan Suryodaya Yojana (Phase-II)., (4) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of conversion of 66kV S/C H-frame line portion of existing 66kV Kotda – Lodhida – Hodathali – Sardhar line from Dog to Panther conductor on partly with D/C N.B. + M/C Panther tower with Panther conductor and partly with UGC 1Cx630 sq.mm (6+1) & (3+1) (OH Line length -16.442 KM under Gondal Circle. (Only OH Portion)., (5) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66kV D/C Dharampur - Ambatalat & 66kV D/C Dharampur – Barumal line on M/C tower with AL-59 (Weight equivalent to ACSR Panther) Conductor under Kisan Suryoday Yojna-II (Dharampur SS toAP-36) -7.745 kM - Pkg-1. under Navsari Circle. (Only OH Portion)., (6) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of conversion of (i) 66 kV Jasdan - Sardhar line (ii) 66kV Jasdan - Kharchiya line (iii) 66kV Kharchiya - Mota Dadva line (iv) 66kV Mota Dadva - Ramod line (v) 66kV Jetpur - Umrali line with ACSR DOG conductor into equivalent HTLS conductor (equivalent weight of ACSR DOG conductor with higher ampacity) of Gondal Circle., (7) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66kV S/C line on D/C panther tower from 66kV Kidiyanagar substation to M/s Executive Engineer Water resource investigation division, for unit PS-1 for catering 9350 KVA new power demand at 66kV voltage class Package-1: from 66kV Kidiyanagar Gantry to AP-31/0 having line length 9.24Rkm (OH-09.09Rkm + UG-0.15Rkm) (630Sqmm (3+1)) under Anjar Circle. (Only OH Portion)., (8) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66kV S/C line on D/C panther tower from 66kV Kidiyanagar substation to M/s Executive Engineer Water resource investigation division, for unit PS-1 for catering 9350 KVA new power demand at 66kV voltage class Package–2: from AP-31/0 to AP-45/0 having line length 9.036Rkm under Anjar Circle. (Only OH Portion)., (9) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66kV S/C line on D/C panther tower from 66kV Kidiyanagar substation to M/s Executive Engineer Water resource investigation division, for unit PS-1 for catering 9350 KVA new power demand at 66kV voltage class Package–3: AP-45/0 to AP-65/0 having line length 9.98 km (9.83km OH + 0.15km UG cable) under Anjar Circle. (Only OH Portion).

[D] SUBSTATION: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-407, 410:- (1) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132kV 1Cx800sq mm 2*(3+0) XLPE U/G cable from 220 kV Godhra S/S to 132 kV Godhra TSS (cable route length 8.510 RKms)., (2) Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66/11kV GIS equipments, materials on turnkey basis including all civil works at 66kV Morbi Jail Road GIS.

Above tenders are available on website **www.getcogujarat.com** (for view and download only) & **tender.nprocure.com** (For view, download and online tender submissions).

Note: The bidders are requested to be in touch with our website till opening of these tenders.

Date: 01/01/2026 **Additional Chief Engineer (Procurement & Contracts)**

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THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA

In association with CHRIST, NITTE

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Name the literary genre that reflects contemporary social and political anxieties through imagined future worlds?
2. Who wrote the book Q & A, which inspired the film Slumdog Millionaire?
3. Robert Kanigel's book The Man Who Knew Infinity is the biography of which renowned Indian?

T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Flesh | 2. J.R.R Tolkien | 3. Michael Crichton

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Monika.J, Kancheepuram | 2. Jenish Joseph, Bengaluru
3. Kadhiravan Palani, Hyderabad

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) BSCC, First Floor, Commercial Complex, 9th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 11

No:EE(QA/QC)/Z-2/BSCC/TEND/01/2025-26 **Date:30-12-2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Bangalore South City Corporation (BSCC) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer (QA/QC),BSCC on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 4 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 32,33,40,43) Package No-CSSIP BH-04 **Project Cost: ₹. 1166.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 43,725/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 7 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 38,39,42,44, 46,47,48) Package No-CSSIP BH-05 **Project Cost: ₹. 1381.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 50,000/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and other allied works in ward No. 213, 214, 216, 215, 217, 218, 219, 220 of Bommanahalli Sub Division and Arakere Sub Division. (G.O. Order No. UDD MNY 2025 (E). Bengaluru, Dated: 03-11-2025) GO (Annexure-5) Sl. No. 47,48,49,50. **Project Cost: ₹. 1500.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 60,000/-**
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, suburterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO BSCC No. 74,77) Package No-CSSIP MDP-01 **Project Cost: ₹. 1170.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 43,900/-**
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and roud safety measures to selected arterial, subarterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO BSCC Sl. No. 75,76) Package No-CSSIP MDP-02 **Project Cost: ₹. 1230.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 46,200/-**
6	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 4 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 34,50,49,78) Package No-CSSIP BH-03 **Project Cost: ₹. 1000.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 37,500/-**
7	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 3 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 31,35,36) Package No-CSSIP BH-01 **Project Cost: ₹. 1074.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 40,275/-**
8	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper chamber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 3 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 37,41,45 Package No-CSSIP BH-02 **Project Cost: ₹. 1579.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 50,000/-**
9	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and other allied works in Ward No. 221, 222 and 223. Comprehensive Development of Roads Drains other allied works in ward no 221 and 222 of HSR Sub Division (G.O. Order No. UDD 474 MNY 2025 (E). Bengaluru, Dated: 03-11-2025) GO (Annexure-5) Sl. No. 45,46 **Project Cost: ₹. 1000.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 50,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded Through KPP portal from **02-01-2026** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **08-01-2026** at **11:00** am (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **17-01-2026** upto **4:30** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **19-01-2026** at **11:00** am.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC), Zone-2
Bengaluru South City Corporation

India International Regatta youth sailing from January 6

The event, to be held at Chennai Port, will feature five boat classes, bringing together talents in the seven to 16 years age group

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

All set: The dignitaries at the India International Regatta launch.

Some of the best young sailors from 13 countries, including India, will compete in the SDAT-ASAF 11th India International Regatta (IIR) youth sailing championships, to be held at Chennai Port from January 6 to 9. The championships, which will be the second leg of the ASAF Cup series, will feature five boat classes – Optimist, 29er, Laser 4.7 (ILCA 4), 420, and iQ Foil – bringing together bright talents in the seven to 16 years age group.

In the Optimist class, stars to watch include Sverre Johann Caspar Bimberg (Sweden), Benjamin Chaix, Jamie Blennerhassett, and Lily Sheridan (all Ireland).

Indian competitors include Krishna Venkitachalam (RMYC), Vantava Raguraman, Jagrav Kumar, Shivaay Shekar (all TNSA), Srishti Singh, Krithika Vishwanathan (all Secunderabad Sailing Club) and Yudveer Singh (EME Sailing Association).

At a press conference here on Wednesday, Atulya Misra, additional chief secretary of Tamil Nadu, highlighted the country's 30,000 km coastline and its long history of sports. "Sailing will be our priority," he said.

He also mentioned that the Sailing Academy at Marina and the Water Sports Academy in Rameswaram would be operational soon and spectator viewing points for IIR with telescopes and LED screens will come up. Ashok Thakkar, vice-president of the Yachting Association of India and Tamil Nadu Sailing Association (TNSA), thanked SDAT for being the title sponsor.

Former international sailors S. Jayalakshmi and K.C. Ganapathy spoke about how participation in IIR helped them prepare for bigger competitions. The championship promises exciting races and a chance to witness the next generation of sailing talent from around the world.

ICC Test rankings: Starc and Brook climb to second spots

ANI
MELBOURNE

On song: Brook produced crucial knocks in the Boxing Day Test. REUTERS

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc pulled level with Pakistan's Noman Ali for a career-best joint-second spot while Scott Boland made a two-spot jump to seventh place among bowlers in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test rankings issued on Wednesday.

Harry Brook, who played crucial knocks of 41 and 18 not out during the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on a bowling paradise, moved up three spots to No. 2 among the batters.

The Boxing Day Test saw pacers taking all 36 wickets and the match finishing within two days.

England ended its 18-match winless streak Down Under and registered its first Test win in Australia since 2011.

Tongue moves up

Josh Tongue, who captured England's first five-wicket haul in a Boxing Day Test in the 21st century, made a climb of 13 spots and reached No. 30 (573 rating points).

So far, the English quick has taken 12 wickets at an average of 18.58 in two Tests in the Ashes series.

A returning Gus Atkinson, who took three wickets in the match, including the key wicket of Travis Head in the first innings with the new ball, climbed four spots to reach 13th with 698 rating points.

Pacer Brydon Carse's five wickets, including a second-innings four-for, helped him rise six spots to No. 23.

Atkinson also played a crucial knock of 28 in England's first innings, moved to No. 8 in the all-rounders' rankings, with his skipper Ben Stokes maintaining third spot with 316 points.

Starc's four wickets helped him join Noman in a tie for second spot (843), with Scott Boland rising two places to seventh at a rating of 810. Starc has been exceptional in the series, registering his best-ever wicket tally in a Test series, with 26 scalps in four matches at an average of 17.42, with best figures of seven for 58.

Boland is no less, troubling English batters with his impeccable line and length, taking 16 wickets in four matches at an average of 23, with a four-for to his name.

Brook (846 rating points) is chasing Joe Root (867) for the top spot. Brook, despite not being able to convert his starts into big scores, is the fifth-highest run-getter of the series with 232 runs in four matches and eight innings at an average of 33.14, with a fifty.

Lee, Kapp train with Capitals for WPL

Press Trust of India
MARGAO

Veteran South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp along with compatriot Lizelle Lee, who played a key role in Hobart's recent WBBL title triumph, have joined the Delhi Capitals training session ahead of the upcoming Women's Premier League.

Indian players Taniyaa Bhatia, Niki Prasad, Minnu Mani, Mamatha Madiwala, Deeya Yadav, and Nandni Sharma have also joined the camp.

The team is training under head coach Jonathan Batty, with other Indian national team players set to join after the conclusion of the Sri Lanka series on Tuesday.

Speaking about the preseason camp, Batty said, "We have some fresh faces in the team, so it will be exciting to see them blend with our philosophy. Goa's weather is perfect for preparations. "The remaining players will join in a couple of days, and we'll begin training in full swing with the complete squad."

Arteta eyes title after Arsenal routs Villa

The gameplan worked! Arteta celebrates with assistant coach Stuivenberg after a stunning Arsenal show against Aston Villa. AFP

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Mikel Arteta warned Arsenal's title rivals that its ruthless 4-1 rout of Aston Villa showed it is on track to win the Premier League for the first time in 22 years.

Arteta's side issued a significant statement of intent in the title race by crushing Villa with a second half blitz at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

After losing at Villa and Liverpool and drawing with Manchester City and Chelsea earlier this season, Arsenal finally has a landmark victory in the bid to win the title.

Arteta hailed the result as proof Arsenal has what it takes to lift the Premier League trophy at last after finishing as runner-up for three successive seasons.

"Well, it has been a great 2025 on a personal and professional level. The way these guys, the club and the staff make me enjoy my work every single day is brilliant," Arteta said.

"In 2026, we know what we want. We will have to work really hard for it every single day, but I think we are on the right tracks for it."

Arsenal ends 2025 five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, which play its game in hand at Sunderland on Thursday, while third-placed Villa is six points adrift of the leader.

Ending Villa's club-record equalling 11-match winning run was a sweet moment for Arteta after the pain of Emiliano Buendia's stoppage-time winner for Unai Emery's men earlier in December.

"It is a beautiful evening. That was a very tough match, as we knew it would be, because they are a top opponent," said Arteta.

"The first 10 minutes were a bit shaky and we had to adjust things. After that, we grabbed the game and we were creating the chances.

"The way we started the second half was amazing. We really turned things up and were efficient in everything that we did.

"We had to be really meticulous. It's a big credit to my players because against this team it isn't easy."

After grinding out a series of victories with just a one-goal margin lately, this was the kind of swaggering display that underlined Arsenal's vast potential.

"We needed scrappy goals to win other games but today the quality of our finishing was top and made the difference," Arteta said.

Praising Brazil defender Gabriel's influence on his first start since being injured in November, Arteta added: "We saw it today. He came back after six weeks out and composed himself against one of the best strikers in the league in Ollie Watkins. I thought he was tremendous."

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*Source: Based on the published standalone sales turnover of the Indian Tyre Companies for the financial year ended 31-03-2025.
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